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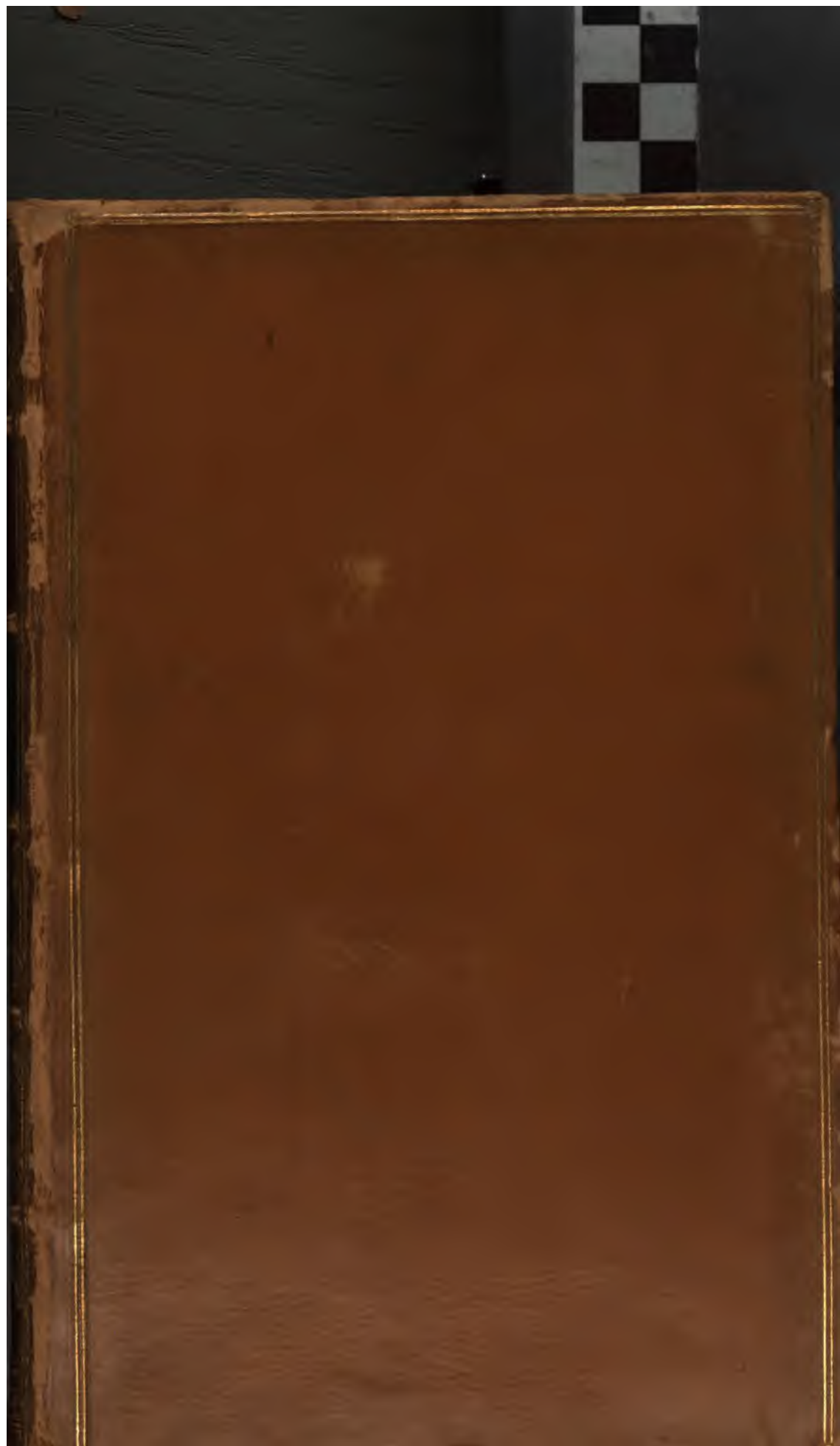
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CORRESPONDENCE
OF
JOHN, FOURTH DUKE OF BEDFORD:

SELECTED FROM
THE ORIGINALS AT WOBURN ABBEY.

WITH
AN INTRODUCTION,
BY LORD JOHN RUSSELL.

VOL. I.

LONDON:
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INTRODUCTION.

THE correspondence of John fourth Duke of Bedford, preserved at Woburn Abbey, contains authentic materials for the illustration of the political history of England from 1744 to 1770. He was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1744 to 1748 ; then, till 1750, Secretary of State. During a part of the Seven Years' War he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland ; and afterwards, as Ambassador at Paris, negotiated the treaty of peace of 1763. He was President of the Council in the administration formed by Mr. Grenville in the autumn of 1763. The letters published in the present volume relate for the most part to the period in which he first held office, and end with the year 1748. They comprise some details of his naval administration, and are very full with respect to the negotiations for the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. They are almost entirely letters of business ; and are chiefly valuable as authentic memorials of public affairs during a part of the history of this country as a free and

youngest daughter of Charles Earl of Sunderland, and grand-daughter of the Great Duke of Marlborough. She was the favourite grandchild of Sarah Duchess of Marlborough; and many curious letters of that singular woman are preserved at Woburn Abbey.

It was intended that Lord John should come into the House of Commons; and a seat for the borough of Brackley had been secured with that view, when, by the death of his elder brother, without children, he succeeded, at the age of twenty-two, to the title of Duke of Bedford.

The grandson of Lord Russell naturally belonged to the Whig party. The Bill of Rights and the Toleration Act had given strength and power to those principles which Lord Russell died to defend. By vigour and promptitude the Whigs had placed the House of Hanover upon the throne; but the exiled Stuarts had been on the point of success. Bolingbroke, secretary of state, had deeply intrigued in their favour. Lord Jersey, and others of Queen Anne's court, were in their pay. Among their favourers and well-wishers were to be reckoned; in England, the landed gentry, a large portion of the clergy, the university of Oxford; in Scotland, many of the Highland clans and the Episcopal gentry; in Ireland, the Roman Catholics, the great majority of the population of that island. Yet

the Pretender was not wrong when he affirmed that many would drink his health after dinner who would not fight for him in the field. Fielding has well described a politician of this class in Squire Western, who says so angrily to his sister, “‘I hope the times are a coming that we shall make fools of them, and every man shall enjoy his own. That’s all, sister, and every man shall enjoy his own. I hope to zee it, sister, before the Hanover rats have eat up all our corn, and left us nothing but turnips to feed upon.’—‘I protest, brother,’ cries she, ‘you are now got beyond my understanding. Your jargon of turnips and Hanover rats is to me perfectly unintelligible.’—‘I believe,’ cries he, ‘you don’t care to hear o’em, but the country interest may succeed one day or other for all that.’” However, the country interest did not succeed: the rebels were baffled in the field; the squires became reconciled to the House of Hanover; and, in time, even the university of Oxford ceased to be disloyal. But prosperity divided the Whigs.

When John Duke of Bedford took his seat in the House of Lords, Sir Robert Walpole was the head of a powerful administration, but the object of much popular invective, and the theme of much eloquent declamation. The Duke of Bedford, like most young men, whether Whig or Tory, joined

the Opposition. In 1734, in a spirit of honest indignation at corrupt practices in the election of Scotch peers, he made a motion in the House of Lords, "That the engaging any peer by threats, or crown gratuities, to vote for a representative of the Scottish peerage, should be pronounced a high insult on the justice of the crown, an encroachment on the freedom of elections, and an injury inflicted on the honour of the peerage." This motion being defeated, he renewed the subject in the following session, and, with the minority, recorded his opinion in three distinct protests on the subject.

The year 1739 was rendered memorable by the outcry against the Spaniards for their violent interference with the British trade. The Duke of Bedford, in the debate upon the address, warmly replied to the Duke of Newcastle, and attacked what he considered as pusillanimous conduct on the part of the ministry. He afterwards presented the petition of the London merchants protesting against the convention, and praying for redress against the injuries and insults of the Spanish forces. Sir Robert Walpole endeavoured, but in vain, to keep within bounds the angry spirit of the nation. He represented that although no man could deny the right of our merchants to pass from any part of the King's dominions to another, yet that this country, having in the most solemn manner renounced all

claim to trade with the Spanish possessions in America (except by the Assiento ship), the continual attempt to violate this prohibition by our merchant vessels naturally led to exasperation and resentment. That when the Spaniards saw our vessels hovering about the coast, and boats continually passing and repassing from the shore to the ships, it was not surprising that outrages should have occurred which required redress indeed, but redress demanded with dignity, and arranged with a regard to the honour of both nations. "It requires no great art, no great abilities in a minister, to pursue such measures as might make war unavoidable. That is a very easy matter; but how many ministers have you had who knew the art of avoiding war by making a safe and honourable peace? The world is very apt to judge of measures and characters by events; and as events depend on fortune, it is the part of a wise minister to leave as little as possible to fortune; too much must be left to her, even in the most cautious manner a minister can act."*

When the Spaniards, however, failed to execute the convention, war became unavoidable. Still the Minister honourably vindicated his love of peace:

"I have lived, Sir, long enough in the world to

* *Parl. Hist.* Feb. 1. 1739.

see the effects of war on this nation; I have seen how destructive the effects, even of a successful war, have been; and shall I, who have seen this, when I am admitted to the honour to bear a share in his Majesty's councils, advise him to enter upon a war, while peace may be had? No! I am proud to own it, I always have been, and always shall be, an advocate for peace. I would act the same part over again that I have already acted; I would give the same advice to his Majesty; I would make the same opposition in this House that I have ever done, to those who delight in bloodshed and confusion, and who can be happy only in the misery of their country."*

If the Duke of Bedford pressed too warmly the complaints of our merchants, and thus contributed to swell the clamour for war, he shared in that error of which Burke tells us all the parliamentary leaders against Walpole were afterwards painfully conscious. Mr. Pitt, the most eloquent of these orators, avowed in parliament his regret at the part he had taken against the pacific policy of Walpole.

The popular cry against Sir Robert Walpole, and the shining talents of those who were combined against him, having at length produced his overthrow, that wise and honest statesman, caring little for

* Parl. Hist. Nov. 27. 1739.

the threats of his enemies, employed all his sagacity and exerted all his influence over the King, for the purpose of keeping together a Whig ministry and a Whig parliament. Not moved from his purpose, either by the treachery of some of his colleagues or by the violent enmity of all his opponents, he calmly surveyed the materials out of which the administration was to be reconstructed upon his removal. The different sections who had concurred in the majority against him may be thus arranged:—

1. Pulteney, his most powerful assailant in the House of Commons, acted in conjunction with Carteret, the most able and accomplished debater in the House of Lords: both of these leaders were Whigs, both had held high situations under Walpole, and both had been alienated by his supremacy of power and influence, which threw their ambition into the shade. Pulteney was a quick and lively speaker; always ready with some apt illustration or diverting story, which went round the town, and turned the laugh against the Minister. Carteret was an excellent scholar: he had carried away from College, said Swift, more learning and information than became a man of his rank and fortune. When Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he showed his readiness by a retort upon Swift himself, in which the Viceroy excelled the wit. Swift having been kept a long

time in the anteroom of Dublin Castle, left these lines :

“ My very good Lord, 'tis a very hard task
For a man to wait here who has nothing to ask.”

To which Carteret replied, alluding to the pending prosecution of the Draper's Letters :

“ My very good Dean, there are few who come here,
But have something to ask, or something to fear.”

He excused himself classically for his strong measures against political libels, by quoting from Virgil :

“ Res dura et regni novitas me talia cogunt
Moliri.”

Yet, while these two disappointed and angry men had light to shine, and even scattered fire to brand and consume their opponents, it will be seen that neither had the firmness to pursue a consistent course, nor the qualities necessary to inspire confidence, nor the strength to hold the standard they had vigour sufficient to wrest from others. Pulteney was more avaricious than ambitious: Carteret was better fitted for social conviviality than for steady business; both were vain of the distinction of being thought capable of the highest place, rather than anxious to govern well. The fall of Walpole was a test of their capacity. A large body of discontented Whigs followed their lead.

2. The next body of malecontents were those whom Sir Robert Walpole called “the boy patriots,” and

his son Horace "the Cobham cousins." At the head of these was Lord Cobham himself; but the strength of their force lay in Lyttelton, George Grenville, and, above all, in William Pitt. These, and some others, were connected with Frederick Prince of Wales, who vehemently opposed the favourite minister of his father. William Pitt was at this time 34 years of age. He had spoken with great vigour on several occasions, but no one expected to see him placed, at this time, in one of the high positions of the state. The reader will observe, in the course of these letters, some curious proofs of the preference given to high rank and great fortune in the distribution of the principal offices of the state.

3. The Duke of Bedford, with Lord Sandwich, and some others who professed personal attachment to him, formed another small section of Whigs. Lord Chesterfield, Mr. Doddington, and others had their separate lances in the insurgent camp.

4. The Tories attached to the Hanover succession were few in number; but, as time consolidated the dynasty, many fell off from their Jacobite connection, and were ready to accept employment from a German king and a Whig minister. The principal of these was Lord Gower, the father-in-law of the Duke of Bedford. Lord Gower had been a leader among those members of the party who still

hoped to restore the banished Stuarts, and his reconciliation with the lawful sovereign was resented as a grievous defection by the more ardent Jacobites. Even the pages where we should least look for political libel, those of a Dictionary of the English language, were nearly being made the vehicle of a lampoon on Lord Gower. Doctor Johnson said to Boswell, "You know, Sir, Lord Gower forsook the old Jacobite interest. When I came to the word *renegado*, after telling that it meant 'one who deserts to the enemy, a revolter,' I added, '*sometimes we say a Gower.*' Thus it went to the press; but the printer had more wit than I, and struck it out."*

After Lord Gower, Sir John Hynde Cotton was now one of the principal Tories. This section had lost in Wyndham, "just to freedom and the throne," as Pope calls him, the great ornament and support of their cause. The profligate conduct of Bolingbroke had destroyed the influence which his brilliant talents might have given him; and nothing but large possessions and the weight of landed property preserved the importance of a party which carried prerogative in the abstract too far for liberty, and denied to the monarch on the throne the power necessary for the preservation of order.

* Life of Dr. Johnson, vol. i. p. 275.

It was the object of Walpole to keep asunder the disjointed members of this unshapen body, and to make the new ministry a representation of the Whig party. It was useful to him for this purpose that the Lord Chancellor and the Duke of Newcastle should have deserted his falling fortunes, and sought connection with his opponents.

The first person to be detached was Pulteney. From some hesitation, not easy to explain, the great leader of opposition in the House of Commons was content with a peerage for himself, with the title of Earl of Bath, and the reputation of having refused the post of First Lord of the Treasury. Lord Orford having brought about an interview with the King, said, exultingly, of Pulteney, "I have turned the key of the closet upon him."

Lord Wilmington, whose incapacity had been already ascertained, and who could not be formidable to any one, was made First Lord of the Treasury. Lord Carteret became Secretary of State, with his follower Lord Winchilsea as First Lord of the Admiralty. Subordinate places were given to the inferior members of opposition. Mr. Pitt was excluded. The change did not comprise the great body of the enemies of Walpole.

Measures followed in the footsteps of the leading men, who brought them forward or kept them at a distance, as it suited their purpose. The prosecu-

tion of Walpole was faintly begun, obstructed by the refusal of witnesses, promoted by a bill of indemnity of the most vague character, and finally closed by the rejection of that bill, after an able speech from Lord Hardwicke.

The ministry, when reconstructed, consisted of two parts. The old colleagues of Walpole, forming one of these parts, were led by the Duke of Newcastle, his brother Mr. Pelham, and Lord Hardwicke.

The Duke of Newcastle came into office as Lord Chamberlain early in life, and was appointed Secretary of State in 1724. From that time till the accession of George III., in 1760, he held high offices in the state, and from the downfall of Walpole till the rise of Pitt he exercised the chief influence in affairs. His capacity was by no means of the largest, nor his character of the purest, but both have been unfairly depreciated by the enemies whom his conduct provoked. Sir Robert Walpole, who was strongly attached to Mr. Pelham, felt resentment against the Duke of Newcastle, on account of his desertion of him in the latter days of his power. He thus portrayed the Duke: "He has a foolish head, and a perfidious heart. His name is Perfidy." Lord Carteret, his colleague, endeavoured to supplant, and was interested in decrying him. The Tories and Jacobites could not praise the head of the Whig party. Yet of that

party the Duke of Newcastle retained the lead during a period of nearly twenty years. For a considerable part of that time he principally conducted the foreign department, neither yielding to the German partialities of the court, nor abandoning that system of alliances on the Continent by which the influence of Great Britain was upheld. His chief fault in public affairs was a constant and universal jealousy. He was jealous of Walpole, jealous of Pitt, jealous of Carteret, jealous of the Duke of Bedford, and not less jealous of his own brother than of his other rivals. His best talent was his indefatigable industry: his mind was constantly employed in political affairs; and, from the highest concerns of peace and war to the lowest contention for an exciseman's office, he never relaxed his attention, or missed his opportunity. But, having no large capacity, or steady views of his own, this perpetual struggle to rule affairs, to which he was hardly equal, gave him an uneasy and fidgety manner. It was well said of him, that he always seemed to have lost half an hour in the morning, and to be running after it all the rest of the day.

Mr. Pelham, the Duke of Newcastle's brother, had the advantage of Sir Robert Walpole's good opinion and support. In August, 1742, the retired minister wrote thus to him: "I most heartily wish

you well, and wish you success, for your own sake, and for the sake of the whole. My politics are in a narrow compass. This is a Whig parliament; or, at least, you cannot possibly have a better; do not suffer it to be whistled away; receive the Whig party as you found it; let them think they have the same support entire, as they had, from the administration; and the administration will have the very same support from them. A state of doubt at the beginning of next session will confound all your affairs: judgment you do not want; resolution is a necessary ingredient in time of action: popularity and moderation are. . . .” * To the same effect on October 31. “I will neither like nor dislike any thing on account of persons, but support to my utmost what is, because I think in my conscience there can be no change but for the worse.” †

Lord Hardwicke, a great magistrate and an admirable judge, took a prominent part in all discussions relating to domestic and foreign politics. The absolute supremacy of Walpole had prevented his ambition from wandering out of his own court, and he had greater influence with a less able colleague. Like the Duke of Newcastle, he has been depreciated as a statesman; but his character as an Equity Judge is less liable to prejudice, and

* Pelham Adm. vol. i. p. 34.

† Ibid. p. 35.

has stood the test both of the party prejudice of his own time and the impartiality of succeeding generations.

In order to supplant these ministers, Lord Carteret endeavoured to work upon the Hanoverian bias of the King. Indulging all the royal projects, he soon became a favourite at court, but in proportion to his evident want of consistency and patriotism, he lost ground with the nation.

The first occasion for contest arose upon the illness and death of Lord Wilmington, the nominal head of the administration. When his life drew towards its termination, Lord Orford advised Mr. Pelham to apply for the succession; he did so, and his application was favourably received. But Pulteney, who had left the staff on the ground when it was dropt by Walpole, was now eager to take it up. Carteret supported his former friend, and owned to Mr. Pelham that he did so. The King, aware of the opinion of Lord Orford, decided in favour of Pelham. Carteret took the matter in apparent good part, and promised sincere co-operation. But Lord Orford, who could not bear either Pulteney or Carteret, put Mr. Pelham on his guard, and advised him to strengthen himself in his own office against his rival.

The chief question upon which the King's favour turned, and upon which popular interest was

decision. I will not submit to be over-ruled and out-voted on every point, by four to one. If you will take the government you may; if you cannot, or will not, there must be some direction, and I will do it." The next day he went farther: "There is anarchy in Holland, and anarchy at home. The first may be removed by a stadtholder; but, to remove the latter, things must be brought to an immediate decision."

When Lord Carteret spoke thus, he was confident in his power of making a ministry to the exclusion of the Pelhams, while he did not believe that the Pelhams would or could remove him. His belief was, contrary to his own recent experience, that the King could do as he pleased.

The events of the campaign were unfavourable to the allies, and in the month of August the Pelhams found in the misfortunes of the war new weapons against Lord Carteret, and the Sovereign less disposed to stand by him. "The King is at present very low, and consequently very complaisant," writes the Duke of Newcastle to Lord Hardwicke.* But a week afterwards he tells Mr. Pelham that the King was in more apparent ill-humour than he had been during the contest about measures; that the courtiers were shy

* August $\frac{8}{19}$. 1744. Pelham Administration.

towards them, or at least towards him. "Upon the whole, I am of opinion that he thinks at present that he has nothing more to hope from us, and nothing to fear; that he will go on with his favourite, Lord Carteret, and he will use us accordingly." To this he was determined not to submit any longer. Mr. Pelham agreed, and said there was no private comfort, nor any public end to be attained by giving in.

At length by the end of October it was determined to bring these matters to a decision. Lord Chancellor Hardwicke prepared a memorial of considerable length and great ability, in which he proposed that the Dutch should be required to perform the stipulations of the treaty of 1678, and that a minister of high rank and known ability should be sent to the Hague to induce the States to declare war against France. This memorial was delivered to the King by the Duke of Newcastle on the 1st of November, in the name of himself, the Chancellor, Mr. Pelham, Lord Harrington, and other members of the cabinet. "The effect produced was sullenness, ill-humour, fear, a disposition to acquiesce, if it could be done with Lord Granville's approbation, for that is the whole."*

The King said with much spirit to Lord Hard-

* Pelham Adm., vol. i. p. 185. 4to.

wicke, "You would persuade me to abandon my allies; but that shall never be the reproach of my reign, as it was of Queen Anne's, and I will suffer any extremities rather than assent."

The real question was, however, which party in the cabinet could obtain the co-operation of the leading members of opposition. Lord Carteret, now Lord Granville, opened a negotiation for this purpose through the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Newcastle through Lord Chesterfield.

The minority were disposed to side with the Pelhams, but some among them wished to stipulate for a new system of management abroad, a place bill, and the repeal of the Septennial Act. A committee was appointed, consisting of the Duke of Bedford, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Gower, Lord Cobham, Mr. Pitt, Sir John Hynde Cotton, Lyttelton, Waller, and Doddington, to consider whether these conditions should be asked. Upon the question being put to the vote it was found that the Duke of Bedford, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Gower, Mr. Pitt, and Mr. Lyttelton, concurred in opinion to join the Pelhams without any stipulation. The rest acquiesced, and took their part in the ensuing arrangements.

The King, finding such a union against him, could not proceed with his plan of giving Lord Bath and Lord Granville the direction of affairs, yet he tried

one more step; he desired Lord Orford to come from Houghton to give him his assistance and advice. Lord Orford, at the expense of his health, and even his life, obeyed the summons; but he advised the King to take part with the majority of his cabinet. After this final blow, the King, on the 23d of November, intimated to the Chancellor his resolution that Lord Granville should resign.

Such was the revolution of parties by which the Duke of Bedford was first placed in a high public office. He became First Lord of the Admiralty. Lord Sandwich, his friend and follower, and Mr. George Grenville, one of the "Cobham cousins," obtained seats at the board. Lord Gower was re-appointed Privy Seal. Lord Harrington received the seals resigned by Lord Granville. Sir John Hynde Cotton, Lyttelton, Doddington, and others were named to subordinate appointments.

The cabinet into which the Duke of Bedford entered was nominally composed as follows :

MR. PELHAM	- -	First Lord of the Treasury, and Chancellor of the Exchequer.
DUKE OF NEWCASTLE	-	Secretary of State for the Southern Department.
LORD HARRINGTON	-	Secretary of State for the Northern Department.
LORD HARDWICKE	-	Lord Chancellor.
MARQUIS OF TWEEDDALE	-	Secretary of State for Scotland.
DUKE OF MONTAGU	-	Master General of the Ordnance.
DUKE OF ARGYLL	-	Keeper of Great Seal of Scotland.
DUKE OF BEDFORD	-	First Lord of the Admiralty.

DUKE OF DORSET	-	-	Lord President of the Council.
DUKE OF GRAFTON	-	-	Lord Chamberlain.
DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE	-	-	Lord Steward.
DUKE OF RICHMOND	-	-	Master of the Horse.
LORD GOWER	-	-	Lord Privy Seal.
EARL OF BATH	-	-	Without office.

The chief direction of affairs, however, rested with the Pelhams, the Chancellor, Lord Harrington, and the Duke of Bedford.

There are two circumstances respecting this administration which are very remarkable. The one is that Lord Bath should have belonged to it, the other that Mr. Pitt should not. Lord Bath had been the leader of the opposition which overthrew Walpole. On the overthrow of that minister he was the man

“Che fece per viltà il gran rifiuto.”

And having declined with an air of disinterested and modest patriotism the office of Prime Minister, he entered the cabinet to intrigue and cabal against those who assumed the responsibility from which he had started back in affright. On two several occasions he took courage to aspire to the place he had at the proper moment refused; once on the death of Lord Wilmington, and again in the midst of the Rebellion. But the Duke of Newcastle, little as he was respected, had the strength to shake off the feeble ambition of this faithless colleague; and Lord Bath sunk, never to rise again.

Mr. Pitt, as the most eloquent orator, and most brilliant of the rising men of his day, had a fair claim to office on the retirement of Lord Granville. The Pelhams intended that he should be Secretary at War. But his invectives against the Hanover troop measures had sunk deeply into the mind of the King, and the royal prejudice could not for the present be overcome. Mr. Pitt, with a forbearance and regard for his friends highly honourable to him, gave his cordial support to Mr. Pelham, and was content to wait, aware that his talents were more powerful to raise than the royal aversion to depress him.

That these changes were for a long period highly distasteful to the King is proved by a conversation which took place in January 1745, between his Majesty and Lord Hardwicke. After much discourse on foreign affairs, the dialogue thus continued:—

The King.—I have done all you asked of me. I have put all my power into your hands, and I suppose you will make the most of it.

Chancellor.—The disposition of places is not enough, if your Majesty takes pains to show the world you disapprove of your own work.

The King.—My work ! I was forced ; I was threatened.

Chancellor.—I am sorry to hear your Majesty use those expressions. I know of no force; I know of no threats. No means were employed but what have been used in all times—the humble advice of your servants, supported by such reasons as convinced them that the measure was necessary for your service.

The King.—Yes, I was told that I should be opposed.

Chancellor.—Never by me, Sir, nor by any of my friends.

The King must have felt, that, however Lord Hardwicke might disguise the matter, his favourite plans had been thwarted, and his favourite minister displaced by the Pelhams.

As this is the period at which the Duke of Bedford became a prominent member of administration, it is as well to refer in this place to the character given of him by Horace Walpole. It should be premised, that, although a very entertaining writer, Horace Walpole had no very solid judgment in politics. It is evident, from his letters and those of Sir Robert, that he never was in the confidence of his father; and that while Lord Orford soberly weighed the interests of the Hanover family and the Whig party, his son was enchanted with Lord Granville's wit and Lady Granville's beauty. It should be added, that Horace Walpole was pre-

judiced against the Duke of Bedford from some private quarrel.

When these allowances are made, the following character of the Duke of Bedford may be considered as tolerably fair:—

“He was a man of inflexible honesty and goodwill to his country: his great economy was called avarice; if it was so, it was blended with more generosity and goodness than that passion will commonly unite with. His parts were certainly far from shining, and yet he spoke readily, and upon trade well; his foible was speaking upon every subject, and imagining he understood it, as he must have done, by inspiration. He was always governed; generally by the Duchess, though immeasurably obstinate when once he had formed or had an opinion instilled into him. His manner was impetuous, of which he was so little sensible, that being told Lord Halifax was to succeed him, he said, ‘He is too warm and overbearing; the King will never endure him.’ If the Duke of Bedford could have thought less well of himself, the world would probably have thought better of him.”*

Lord Marchmont makes the following report of part of a conversation he had with Lord Chesterfield: “The Duke of Bedford governed the Admiralty absolutely, was very obstinate, and

* *Memoirs*, vol. i.

would not be spoken to; and that the Ministers knew no more of what he was doing there than I now did." *

When the Duke of Bedford was placed at the head of the Admiralty, the naval affairs of Great Britain were by no means in a prosperous state. The indecisive action of Mathews and Lestock had dispirited the nation ; the court-martial which afterwards ensued, by condemning the Admiral who had fought, and acquitting the Admiral who had kept out of action, did its utmost to disgust the naval profession.† In this situation, the Duke of Bedford exerted himself to give authority to the Admiralty, increased strength to the navy, and opportunities of distinction to the best officers he could find. He did not, as might be supposed from the foregoing extracts, assume to himself, unassisted and uninformed, the direction of this great department. On the contrary, he relied in all questions entirely naval upon the judgment of that able officer, Lord Anson; and on political and civil matters he consulted his friend and colleague at the Board, Lord Sandwich: but he did not allow his decisions to be over-ruled by the junior Lords, nor his plans to be disturbed by the meddling of the Duke of Newcastle.

* Marchmont Papers, vol. i. p. 213.

† See Life of Lord Keppel, vol. i. There seems to be but one opinion respecting this court-martial.

The merits of the Duke of Bedford, as First Lord of the Admiralty, are well stated by Mr. Wiffen in the following passages:—“In the dock-yards he found great mismanagement; indolence, favouritism, and profuseness: the commissioners, in many cases, old, obstinate, and haughty—surrounded by flatterers; and, to the great discouragement of ingenuity, nothing turned out but—able shipwrights and bad ships.* Some of these he pensioned off, superseded others, and supplied the vacant yards with men capable of introducing into naval architecture those improvements, for the want of which the enemy’s ships, when given chase to, so frequently outstripped the British. (Previously, the surveyors of the navy had built men-of-war according to their own judgment or caprice, by which means no two ships of the same rate were alike, nor would the same masts or rigging do for the one which served for the other; now, the proportions were established and fixed.) Amongst the officers a calculating spirit had crept in, which led them to base their expectations of promotion more upon mere length of service than the active assiduity of merit; whence it had happened that the honour, when it came, was regarded rather as a right than a reward; and if any apparent neglect was thrown

* Bedford Papers. Lord Sandwich to the Duke of Bedford.

on the pretensions of the expectant, his parliamentary acquaintance or relatives were summoned, to avert or to resent the fancied wrong*—a method which had proved but too often successful, to the injury of the nation, and the great scandal of the British flag. To this class of applicants he signified, that, without improperly overlooking length of service, the pretensions of all whom he recommended for promotion should be actual merit, not favour, nor prescriptive usage,—a constant assiduity of service either at home or abroad, and a readiness to undertake any enterprise that might be thought proper for them, without respect to either time or place, during the continuance of that, or any future war.† Hitherto the younger officers had been daunted by the numerous array of seniors along whom, in far remote perspective, they glanced at naval honours. But when these intentions were promulgated, it gave briskness to their hopes, emulation to their actions, and a salutary blow to the oblique interest upon which many had depended. On the seas, accordingly, a spirit of undaunted resolution again began to show itself, and a more vigorous alertness and wise economy to manifest itself in all the arsenals."

* Bedford Papers. M. T. to the Duke of Bedford.

† Bedford Papers. Duke of Bedford to Captain M

The period during which the Duke of Bedford presided at the Board of Admiralty was one of great importance:—the crowns of France and Spain were united, and their combined fleets menaced the possessions of England in every part of the globe; at the same time the kingdom itself was threatened with invasion, and in 1745 the Chevalier actually landed in Scotland, and obtained more than one victory over the King's forces.

The very important events connected with the navy, which took place just before, and during the Duke of Bedford's administration of that department, require some notice.

As part of the general project of invading these islands, a large French fleet of 23 ships of war entered the Channel on the 3d of February, 1744; it was abreast of the Isle of Wight on the 17th, at Dungeness on the 22d. The Admiralty, to meet this armament, had collected a fleet of 29 sail, and had placed it under the command of Sir John Norris, Admiral of the fleet. On the 24th of February, in the morning, a French look-out frigate made the signal for a large fleet in sight; which was in fact that of Sir John Norris coming round the Foreland. Upon the turn of the tide, the English Admiral, who was beating against a westerly wind, was obliged to anchor his ships, and wait for the next day to attack the enemy. But

the French Admiral made a signal to his ships to weigh their anchors a-peak, and when the tide turned to make the best of their way back to Brest, without regard to the order of battle. The wind soon increased to a storm from the north-west, and many of the French ships reached Brest in a very shattered condition. The same storm sunk many of the transports, with troops and stores, collected at Dunkirk, insomuch that the expedition was abandoned, and the camp broken up. Sir John Norris, finding it useless to expose his ships to the gale, anchored in the Downs, and shortly afterwards gave up his command and retired to private life.*

Thus, as in the case of the Armada, the courage of our fleet and armies was aided by the providential occurrence of a great storm at the moment when invasion might have been expected. The partial success obtained by the young Pretender might have become very formidable to the Government, had his Highland levies been supported by some of the disciplined troops of France.

In the year 1745 Commodore Warren, having been despatched by the Duke of Bedford for that purpose, took Louisbourg. The advantages of this capture, in crippling the French trade and their

* Charnock's *Biographia Navalis*. Barrow's *Life of Anson*.

fisheries, were very great; the ships brought into harbour by the ships of war and privateers, and those which were entrapped by the display of the French flag on the fortress, are said to have been worth a million sterling.

After the retirement of Sir John Norris, it became necessary to find some officer of high rank and reputation, to command the Channel fleet. The Duke of Bedford fixed upon Admiral Vernon for this post. Admiral Vernon, so well known by his boasting temper, his success, and his miscarriages, was a man of undoubted talent, but ill qualified by his character to govern those under him or to obey those above him. He was at this time living in retirement, whence in June 1744 he had addressed an unmannerly letter to the Secretary of the Board of Admiralty, beginning "As we that live in the country often content ourselves with the information we derive from the newspapers on market-day, I did not so soon observe," &c. He then complained of the omission of his name from the list of promotion of flag officers; and after declaring himself "a faithful and zealous subject and servant to his royal master," ended by saying, "and if the First Lord Commissioner has represented me in any other light to my royal master, he has acted with a degeneracy unbecoming the descendant from a noble father, whose memory I reverence and esteem, though I

have no compliments to make to the judgment or conduct of the son." *

Vernon was raised to the rank of Admiral of the White in April 1745. He was immediately appointed to the command of the fleet for the defence of the Channel and north coast, and in that situation his vigilance has been greatly commended. The Board of Admiralty, however, having found fault with some of his dispositions of the force, he complained bitterly, and, after an angry correspondence, desired leave to strike his flag. The Admiralty, finding it useless to give orders which were constantly cavilled at, complied with this request. Hereupon the Admiral, who seems to have thought the public would support him against the government, published two pamphlets, in which he revealed the orders he had received, and published without leave his official correspondence. The Admiralty visited this offence in the most severe manner. Admiral Vernon was called upon to attend the Board. When he appeared, the Duke of Bedford asked him if he was the publisher

* The person to whom Admiral Vernon alludes was the Earl of Nottingham, so well known for his high church politics during the reigns of King William and Queen Anne. He was the father of the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, at that time first Lord of the Admiralty. Sir John

Barrow strangely enough mistakes the First Lord intended, and supposes the allusion to be to the Duke of Bedford, who did not hold the office for six months afterwards. See a letter from Admiral Vernon to the Duke of Bedford, in this volume.

of the two pamphlets. He declined to answer the question. The Duke of Bedford then informed him that the Board, after such a refusal, could not but consider him as the publisher. He stated his surprise that he should have been asked such a question, and withdrew. The next day the Duke of Bedford saw the King, and signified to the Board "the King's pleasure that Vice-Admiral Vernon should be struck out of the list of flag officers." *

The punishment in this case was more than adequate to the offence. But, in times when officers were struck out of the army for a vote in parliament, it does not seem to have been considered as more than justice to dismiss from the navy an Admiral who, by an unauthorised publication, had acted in a manner to shake the discipline of the navy, and promote a violation of the confidence placed by the executive department in the commander of the fleet.

In 1746 many gallant actions with single vessels were fought, and the officers who commanded promptly rewarded.

The French having decided to reinforce their fleets and armies in the East Indies and North America, Lord Anson was appointed by the Admiralty to the command of a fleet destined to defeat

* Barrow's Life of Lord Anson.

these objects. On the 3d of May he fell in with the united squadrons, and, after a gallant action, captured every man of war and most of the Indiamen belonging to them.

This victory raised the spirit of the nation, and excited the greatest joy. The glory of Anson as a commander is somewhat diminished by the superiority of his force to that of the enemy; but the same circumstance increases the credit of the naval department of which he was a member.

The fleets of England were rewarded with another victory under Sir Edward Hawke, who, having been sent to intercept a squadron employed to convoy a fleet of merchant vessels to the West Indies, fell in with and captured seven out of nine French line-of-battle ships : many of the convoy afterwards fell into the hands of Commodore Legge.

The favourite plan of the Duke of Bedford was to send an expedition to North America, and conquer Canada. In conformity with his request, preparations were made on a sufficient scale for the purpose. Had he been allowed to order the sailing of the expedition which was prepared, it is most probable the conquest of Canada would not have been reserved for the Seven Years' War. But the indecision or timidity of the Duke of Newcastle delayed, and finally broke up, the expedition.

Some other events, which may be read in the

histories of the time and in the biography of our distinguished Admirals, took place during the naval administration of the Duke of Bedford. On the whole, his great authority seems to have been exercised with vigour in the prosecution of the war, with regard to public service in the selection of officers for command, and with a zealous attention to the efficiency of that great barrier for defence and weapon for aggression—the Navy of England. It is a proof of the judgment, and no derogation of the merit, of the Duke of Bedford, that he was chiefly guided by the counsels of his colleague, Lord Anson.

An instance of the Duke of Bedford's confidence in Lord Anson appears in a letter written by the Duchess to the Admiral, when his flag was flying at Plymouth. Two of the Lords of the Admiralty, Lord Sandwich and Mr. Grenville, had brothers in the command of ships. Mr. Grenville, wishing to obtain for these officers a separate command, contrived that an order for Admiral Anson not to keep their ships above seven days with him should be prepared for signature. But the Duke indignantly refused to sign the order, and the ships were placed unconditionally under Anson.

The naval administration of the Duke of Bedford closed in the year 1748. In the beginning of that year Lord Chesterfield resigned the seals. He

had always been very obnoxious to the King, and he at last found his position such that he could not endure to remain in it any longer.

This resignation caused great embarrassment to the ministers who remained. The Duke of Newcastle and the Duke of Bedford wished that the office should be conferred on Lord Sandwich, but the King was violently opposed to such an arrangement, and Lord Sandwich was far from being popular.

Lord Anson suggested as an expedient that the Duke of Bedford should be Secretary of State, and should be succeeded by Lord Sandwich at the Admiralty. This arrangement was immediately acceded to by all parties concerned.

The ministry, not excepting the Duke of Newcastle, were by this time convinced that peace was necessary. Fortunately for them, the King of France was averse to war, and thus the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle was concluded. Smollett has absurdly called this peace "a dishonourable treaty," and has mentioned as a chief result of hostilities, "the national debt accumulated to the enormous sum of eighty millions sterling." Lord Mahon, with more reason, has remarked, that, after an extensive and costly war, it left the belligerent powers nearly as it found them. The peace was, in fact, a resting-place for powers who could gain nothing by the continuance

of war. Smollett, indeed, speaks of the period when peace was signed as a time "when the British fleets had trampled on the naval power of France and Spain, interrupted their supplies of treasure, and cut off all their resources of commerce." He thus exaggerates the successes of the navy, and indirectly pays a high compliment to the naval administration, in order to depreciate the diplomatic talents and patriotic spirit of the ministry.

A more calm review of the state of affairs may lead to sounder conclusions.

The great problem of European politics for a long period was—how to save Flanders from being annexed to France. So long as the power of Spain was a match for that of France, and the Spanish infantry the best in the world, the difficulty did not exist, or was little felt. When Spain fell into decline, Flanders remained, as Sir William Temple briefly said, "not of a size to maintain a large army, nor of a figure to be defended by a small one." In fact the Low Countries could only be defended by strong fortresses, large subsidies, a powerful army, and a great man. Hitherto these requisites had not been wanting. Here William the Third displayed his unconquerable spirit; here Marlborough unfolded his vast military talents. But such men could not be always forthcoming to throw the sword into the lighter scale of the balance of Europe; in

the war of 1739 the Dutch governors were found incapable; Austrian armies deficient in numbers; so that Saxe and Lowendahl, able and victorious, broke down year by year the defences of the Low Countries.

This ministry of England, finding the resources of their own treasury exhausted by the continual drain of money to defend a country which after all was not defended, accepted peace. Austria complained, but followed her example.

At this time Austrian statesmen began to meditate a new policy. An enemy had arisen, who alarmed Maria Theresa and her council far more than France. When that kingdom had been ruled by Louis the Fourteenth, all the care of Austria had been directed to prevent his encroachments. But Louis the Fifteenth was indolent and unwarlike. Frederick of Prussia was now the prince of aggressive spirit in Europe, and the provinces of Austria herself were the prey on which the eagle had fixed his talons. Hence the Empress ceased to regard the Low Countries, and her ambassador Kaunitz meditated an alliance with France against the ambition of Prussia.

The peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, therefore, was a necessity for England and France, exhausted by great efforts; while for Austria it contained the germ of a new alliance and new hostilities,—the union of France and Austria, the bloody war of 1756.

Such are the chief public occurrences to the end of the year 1748, with which this volume closes. I propose, at the commencement of the next, to resume this notice.

Leaving these matters of state, I may finish this account of the Duke of Bedford by some notice of his private life. Horace Walpole, in a tone of waspish ill-nature, has attributed the influence of Lord Sandwich with the Duke to his partaking in his favourite amusements of cricket-matches and private theatricals. The Duke of Bedford was attached to his own family, delighted in a country life, and shared with cheerfulness in the sports and relaxations which give variety to such a mode of life. But it would be a false inference to suppose that he narrowed his employments and pleasures, even in the country, to the passing hour. Woburn Abbey was almost entirely rebuilt by him on a plan of great extent. His large gallery of historical portraits—in other apartments pictures of great value—showed his love of works of art. Besides building, the Duke of Bedford took a warm interest in planting. The Evergreen Drive at Woburn was planted by him with various kinds of pine and fir, selected with the assistance of Philip Miller, and thinned by his own care. Indeed, on this last point an anecdote has been related by my father characteristic of his disposition.

In the year 1743 the Duke planted the large plantation in Woburn Park known by the name of the "Evergreens," to commemorate the birth of his daughter, afterwards Caroline Duchess of Marlborough: the space was something more than 100 acres; and was, before that time, a rabbit-warren, producing nothing but a few blades of grass, with the heath or ling indigenous to the soil, and without a single tree upon it.

In the course of a few years, the Duke perceived that the plantation required thinning, in order to admit a free circulation of air, and give health and vigour to the young trees. He accordingly gave instructions to his gardener, and directed him as to the mode and extent of the thinning required. The gardener paused, and hesitated, and at length said,—“Your Grace must pardon me if I humbly remonstrate against your orders, but I cannot possibly do what you desire: it would at once destroy the young plantation, and, moreover, it would be seriously injurious to my reputation as a planter.”

The Duke replied, “Do as I desire you, and I will take care of your reputation.”

The plantation was consequently thinned according to his instructions, and the Duke caused a board to be fixed in the plantation, facing the road, on which was inscribed, “This plantation has been

thinned by John Duke of Bedford, contrary to the advice and opinion of his gardener." *

Of the plantation so formed, Mr. Forbes, the present gardener of Woburn Abbey, says, in the preface to the *Pinetum Woburnense*, privately printed, — "In the Woburn Evergreen Plantation, formed in 1743, and which consists principally of the *Coniferæ* tribe, many beautiful feathered specimens, with majestic stems, may be seen: they may be pronounced as unequalled by any other plantation in the kingdom; particularly the *Pinus Pinaster*, *Strobus sylvestris*, *rigida*, *Cembra*, *Abies, pectinata*, and the *Cedrus Libani*: which may be chiefly attributed to the judicious thinning applied to that plantation when in a young state."

I may perhaps be excused for inserting another paragraph on the same subject, from the Introduction written by my father:—

"The culture of the family of the *Coniferæ* may be said to be almost in its infancy in this country. The numerous species of pines introduced into Europe from distant climes, from the Himalayan range of mountains, and other parts of India, has given a new zest to those who take pleasure in bringing forward and cultivating hitherto unknown productions of the vegetable world. And, without going into an inquiry respecting the commercial

* *Pinetum Woburnense*.

advantages to be derived from the knowledge which we are yearly (I may almost say daily) acquiring, of the growth, and value, and properties of trees, I will content myself with observing that the genus *Pinus* is probably entitled to wonder and admiration beyond all others; and that, at no distant period, we may see the *Cedrus Deodara*, the *Abies Douglasii*, and others of similar grandeur, naturalised and flourishing, among the cedars of Lebanon, in our British forests."

I know not whether these anticipations are likely to be realised; but I know that, whatever were the employments or recreations in which my father was engaged, his highest pleasure was derived from the reflection that they might serve to afford fresh ornament to his country, or increased enjoyment to his fellow-creatures.

J. R.

Oct. 6. 1842.

CORRESPONDENCE,

&c. &c.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Temple, June 29. 1742.

1742.

My dear Lord,

WHILST the fate of my old patron* was depending I avoided any application to your Grace for protection, and did so, that I might the more effectually preserve your Grace's good opinion of me; well knowing that I should advance my pretensions very little with any man of sense and honour by appearing more solicitous for myself than for the person to whom I owed the highest obligations. As that debt of gratitude is now punctually paid, the cause of my reserve consequently ceases; nor can I see all men around me intent upon self-preservation, and be so insensible of my own danger, as to think of no refuge, or so

* Sir Robert Walpole.

1742. forgetful of your kind disposition towards me, as
——— to think of any other than your Grace's friendship :
permit me, therefore, without any further preface,
to acquaint you with the present state of my affairs.
The only danger I apprehend is from Mr. Pulteney ;
and after many rumours, to which, as mere town-
talk, I gave little attention, I am now convinced he
has a design of putting Mr. Furnese into my place.
If this happens, not only my whole income is taken
away, but that which was my study and profession,
and by which I hoped, one day or other, to have
been serviceable to the public, as well as myself, is
converted into a sinecure, and added to the super-
fluities of one who is already possessed of a large
estate. How far any personal application to Mr.
Pulteney upon this occasion may be decent for me
to ask, or agreeable to your Grace's situation and
inclination to grant, I am very doubtful ; but this
I would venture to affirm, that if it were conveyed
to Mr. Pulteney through some channel of undoubted
authority, that I have the honour to be an old (par-
don the vanity if I say), an intimate acquaintance of
your Grace, in the support and preservation of
whose fortune you have the goodness to interest
yourself warmly ; a description so much to my ad-
vantage would, I dare say, put me beyond the reach
of all danger : I have received too many marks of
favour from your Grace to doubt your willingness
to assist me ; and, therefore, ought to leave the
time, as well as manner, to your better judgment :
but as this is the crisis of my fortune, upon which

the whole success of my future life depends, pardon my warmth when I add, that there is no time to be lost, and that nothing but your speedy patronage can effectually preserve,

1742.

My Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient

and faithful servant,

H. LEGGE.

LORD GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, July 1. 1742.

My dear Lord,

The affair you mention* in your letter is of a very nice and delicate nature, and deserves, I think, to be very maturely considered before you take any step in it : I am glad, therefore, to find you are resolved to come to town, that we may talk it fully over together ; whether you come to-morrow evening or the next morning, I believe, is very immaterial. Having been laid up with the gout above a fortnight, and but this evening returned from taking a little Berkshire air, I

* Alluding probably to some arrangement consequent on the fall of the Walpole ministry.

1742. know very little of the state of Mr. Legge's affair,
but will make the best inquiry into it I can, before
I have the pleasure of seeing you. I hope you have
been as victorious in Bucks as you were at Woburn ;
and am,

My dear Lord,

Most affectionately yours,

GOWER.

I shall expect the honour of your company at
dinner on Saturday.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. PULTENEY.

London, July 3. 1742.

Sir,

I called at your house this morning, hoping
to have found you at home, and would have again
tried my fortune, in endeavouring to meet with
you, was I not obliged to set out immediately for
Woburn. The occasion of my giving you this
trouble, is in behalf of my old friend Mr. Legge,
who, I am informed, is one of those who are to be
removed from their employments, and that Mr.
Furnese is the person pitched upon to succeed him.
My long acquaintance, and my knowledge of his
honesty and abilities, make me interest myself so
strongly in his favour. Were I not confident, that
nothing can be alleged against him in the discharge

of the post he had the good fortune to be placed, 1742.
 and that the only crime he can be accused of is
 gratitude to the person who placed him in it (and
 to whom, as he had so great obligations, both you
 and I should have condemned him had he been un-
 grateful); if this had not been the case, I should not
 have troubled you with this solicitation. I am too
 well apprised of Mr. Furnese his good intentions
 to the common cause, and his abilities to put my
 friend in competition with him, or to desire that
 Mr. Furnese should be excluded from what he is so
 well qualified for: but as this is a joint place in
 Mr. Scrope and Mr. Legge, I am sure all impartial
 persons must wish to see him removed, through
 whose hands such sums of money have passed, and
 who has refused to give any answer to the secret
 committee*; and I think I may venture to affirm,
 that people will not be satisfied with seeing only
 those removed who were the least obnoxious, and
 those kept in who have been the principal actors
 under the late minister. I must also add, that Mr.
 Legge has the good fortune to have the esteem and
 friendship of many persons who have all along acted
 in opposition to the late minister, and who desire to
 see those removed who have abused the trust con-
 fided in them, but wish to see him continued, as

* Scrope, secretary of the Treas-
 ury and member of the House
 of Commons, on his examination
 as to the disposal of 1,052,211*l.*
 which had been traced to his
 and Sir Robert Walpole's hands,

declined the oath of discovery,
 avowing that he could reply to
 no interrogation concerning secret
 service, without the permission of
 the king.—*Parliamentary His-*
tory, vol. xii. p. 626.

1742. they think no such charge can be alleged against
 him : I have already troubled you too long, so shall
 conclude with assuring you that I am,

Your obedient, humble servant,

BEDFORD.

MR. PULTENEY TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, July 5. 1742.

My Lord,

I am very sorry that I was not at home when your Grace did me the honour to call at my house. The moment I had dined, I went to Lord Gower's, imagining you might be there, who told me that you were returned to Woburn, but he could inform me of the business, which he did, and which I found afterwards in the letter your Grace honoured me with.

Your Grace I am confident would pity me, rather than add difficulties to my undertaking, if you was but thoroughly apprised of the many struggles I have had to get a very few of our friends into employments. At length I think I have settled it pretty well, much better than I expected, though not so well as I could have wished. It was a measure long ago fixed, that Mr. Furnese should succeed to Mr. Legge in the Treasury ; Lord Orford himself thought a step of this kind so natural (I mean that whoever was to be in the Treasury should

bring a friend of their own into Mr. Legge's place), 1742.
that he provided for Mr. Legge with a reversion
which he imagined likely to happen soon, by Lord
Scarborough's bad state of health. I am sure no
man living can be more unwilling to hurt Mr. Legge
than myself, but it is impossible to consent (after
having once undertaken it) to desert a friend, and
especially a man of such use, and consequence as
Mr. Furnese. I will willingly lend my assistance to
procure any thing for Mr. Legge, in lieu of what he
will lose. But what your Grace mentions is abso-
lutely impracticable. Mr. Scrope is the only man
I know that thoroughly understands the business
of the Treasury, and is versed in drawing money
bills. On this foundation he stands secure, and is
as immovable as a rock; besides I really take him
for an exceeding honest man, whatever prejudices
your Grace, or indeed the world, may now have
against him, on account of his late behaviour before
the secret committee. When I have said this, I
must beg leave to assure your Grace that, on all
occasions you shall ever find me ready to obey your
commands, rather than reason against them; but
on this subject I am persuaded, when your Grace
weighs it well, and duly considers the consequences
of it, that all we have settled will be unhinged, and
we shall be in confusion again. I am confident you
will be convinced that it is right to persuade Mr.
Legge to acquiesce, and I promise your Grace
shall find me extremely ready to co-operate with
you in any thing that may be for his interest. In

1742. this and every other occasion I shall ever be desirous of showing my attachment to your Grace, being, with the utmost truth and highest regard,

Your Grace's, &c. &c.

WM. PULTENEY.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

King's Bench Walk, July 7. 1742.

My dear Lord,

Your Grace's second letter was brought to me this morning, and be my fate what it will, I shall have this obligation even to the worst of fortune, that it has produced the strongest testimony I could possibly receive of your Grace's friendship and cordiality towards me.

This is a benefit Mr. Pulteney cannot deprive me of, and upon which I assure your Grace I set as high a value in my own opinion as upon any of those I shall lose, if your generous protection should prove ineffectual. At the same time I am far from thinking it will; for I shall be more astonished at the ways of men than I have yet been, if perhaps the single request you have ever made to any administration, in the defence of one you have the goodness to express as your intimate friend and companion, should be rejected, especially when that request is made, where surely you have a pretty

strong right to *demand*, is at most but a negative one, and desires no greater favour in behalf of your own friend than that he may not receive a most unprovoked and (I hope) an undeserved injury. 1742.

When I see your Grace's patronage in this just light, it raises the hopes I conceive from it, as much as it heightens the gratitude with which I shall ever acknowledge the many obligations you have conferred upon me.

I am, my Lord, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

King's Bench Walk, July 13. 1742.

My dear Lord,

I thank your Grace for the sight you have given me of Mr. P.'s letter, which I return enclosed to you; and as the situation of affairs is described in it, am not surprised that even your intercession was ineffectual towards maintaining me in the Treasury, though I dare say I felt the good effects of it in the manner of turning me out; for this morning, at the same time that Mr. Furnese kissed hands for my place, I likewise kissed for being Surveyor of the woods, &c. To be sure it is a fall; but as they have laid the boughs of trees under me to break it, I am not near so much bruised as if I had been tossed out on the bare pavement.

1742. I send you a list of the executions which were performed this morning : it is as authentic as any you will see in the papers, and will come at least as soon to you as you can receive it from any other private hand. I hope very soon to make my personal acknowledgments to you in a green coat, with all the emblems of forest jurisdiction about me, and shall never lose the sense I have of the zeal and affection with which you have protected

Your most obliged, &c.

H. LEGGE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE EARL OF BATH.

Woburn Abbey, July 15. 1742.

My Lord,

I should have answered your Lordship's letter before this, but was prevented doing it sooner, not being at home when your letter came, since which I wrote to Mr. Legge, whose answer I received but yesterday. I find by it that he kissed hands for the late Mr. Whitworth's place, the same day Mr. Furnese kissed hands for his. I believe we are both obliged to you for your good offices towards him, and that a great many of our friends will be very well pleased in seeing Mr. Legge still continued in employment. I wish you joy of your scheme having taken effect so far, and I hope that by the

joint endeavours of you and those who are just 1742.
come into court, obnoxious men may be removed,
good men put into their room, and a change of
measures brought about as well as men. Give me
leave likewise to congratulate your Lordship upon
your peerage, and to assure you that I am

Your Lordship's

Most obedient, humble servant,

BEDFORD.

THE EARL OF BATH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

My Lord,

Your Grace's letter has made me extremely happy, since I find by it, that the expedient I proposed in favour of Mr. Legge has met with your approbation. I am so thoroughly convinced of your Grace's strict honour and great integrity, that there is nothing in public life I wish for more ardently than your good opinion, which I will endeavour to merit by every action of my life. I am confident you cannot blame me for sticking resolutely by my friend Mr. Furnese, to whom I stood engaged by a very long promise; and since I have now served my friend, without disobliging you, I am happy.

I agree with your Grace that measures must be changed as well as men, and I verily believe they will be so. Abroad at least they manifestly are,

1742. and much for the better in every respect. At home it must be our own faults if they are not mended. But whatever turn affairs may chance to take, I am confident that I can justify my own conduct to the world in a very few words. I will only ask this single question, what do I get for myself, after labouring with indefatigable pains for twenty years? nothing but what I was offered, even at that time; and how I persisted in refusing it till I saw most of my friends provided for in the manner they desired. I wish I could have made the change a little more general; but I know where to lay the blame of that likewise, if it becomes necessary to speak the truth. Upon the whole, I am very sure it is right to make the best of what has been done, and all unite in supporting the honour of our country, this family on the throne, and the present constitution freed from corruption. I am,

With all possible respect,

Your Grace's, &c.

BATH.

MR. BRAND TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

June 3. 1743.

My Lord,

Since you and the Duchess have been so good as to trust your consciences in my hands, it is but just that I should let you know what use I

have made of them. In short, the case is this. 1743.
 The Opera is bankrupt, the directors have run 1600*l.*, and called this general meeting to get the consent of the subscribers to take this debt upon themselves: this I opposed, as they seemed to look upon it as right, and by the great weight and interest I appeared with, I reduced their motion I think to nothing, which as it now stands is, that a letter should be wrote to every one of the two hundred pounds subscribers, to desire them to pay their share of this deficiency *, *if they think proper*. Thus this important affair ended, but the distress of the directors is the most diverting thing I ever saw. The Duke of Rutland, whose name is signed to every contract, is as pale as death, and trembles for his money. Lord M.'s importance is retired into the country to think of ways and means, and Mr. Frederick is absconded. Lord Middlesex is only afraid that the credit of the English operas should be hurt; and though his name is to no contract, would be glad to pay a share with the other four.

I am, &c. &c.

THOS. BRAND.

* This share of the deficiency appears to have been 56*l.* 4*s.*: as application was made to the Duke of Bedford by William Morrison, secretary for the opera, for the payment of that sum. The directors had taken the opinion of the Attorney-General Ryder.

1743.

LORD GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, Nov. 21. 1743.

My dear Lord,

The critical situation of affairs both at home and abroad has brought most of our friends to town, and would, I thought, have brought up your Grace to the meeting of the parliament, and therefore declined troubling you upon that subject; but finding by Lord Sandwich and Bap.* that your Grace does not intend to be here till after the holydays, I cannot omit this opportunity of informing you that all your friends most earnestly desire to see you as soon as possible. As the parliament is prorogued to the 1st of December, you may wonder perhaps at their desiring to see you immediately; I must therefore inform you that they have undoubted intelligence that the old and new ministry are upon such very bad terms, that there is great probability of a rupture between them in a very few days, and if that happens, probably one side or other must apply to us for support, which will draw on a negotiation, in which your friends will very much want your Grace's advice and assistance; and in this case the fate of the nation, at least the fate of this session, may, in a great measure, be decided before the parliament meets. But whether coalition or opposition be our lot, it is highly necessary that a man of your Grace's ability, integrity, and weight

* Baptist, youngest son of John, first Baron Gower.

should be present to give your assistance to your country at this very important conjuncture; therefore, for God's sake, my dear Lord, let us have the happiness of seeing you as soon as possible; and be assured you will not be pressed to stay one moment longer than your presence is absolutely necessary. It is confidently reported this day that the Duke of Marlborough * will not appear at the birthday tomorrow, but will come to town in a day or two after it to resign all his employments. My wife desires her compliments to your Grace, and joins in compliments to all at Woburn, with,

My dear Lord,

Yours, &c.

GOWER.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, Nov. 21. 1743.

My dear Lord,

I ought to make many apologies for the liberty I am now taking in troubling your Grace upon a subject that I am conscious it does not much become me to interfere in, but, as I imagine myself

* H. Walpole says, "The Duke of Marlborough has resigned every thing to reinstate himself in the old duchess's will. She said the other day, 'It is very

natural; he listed as soldiers do when they are drunk, and repented when he was sober.'" *Correspondence*, vol. i. p. 319.

1743. in some degree authorised in what I am doing, by the orders I received from you, to inform you when any material business came on, I think I should not fulfil the trust imposed on me were I to neglect acquainting your Grace how greatly requisite your countenance and assistance is in the present important crisis; the clamour and general discontent of all ranks of people, on account of our late Hanoverian measures, is greater than I could have imagined it could possibly have been; and, if rightly pursued by a vigorous attack at the beginning of the session, may be productive of very good ends: add to this, that the people now in power are so torn and divided into factions*, and their schemes and designs so directly opposite to each other, that their re-connection is judged to be almost impracticable in this critical conjuncture of affairs; every hour may produce new and unforeseen events, when, if those persons who are true friends to the public have not opportunities of concerting measures together for the general good, by the absence of any of the principal parties, favourable circumstances may be neglected, which, if once omitted, may never be recalled again. At this great period I need not say how much your Grace's friends wish for your advice, how much your country needs your support, and how great a disadvantage it will

* "All is distraction! no union in the court: no certainty about the House of Commons: Lord Carteret making no friends, the King making enemies: Mr. Pelham in vain courting Pitt, &c.: Pulteney unresolved. How will it end?" *H. Walpole's Letters*, vol. i. p. 314.

be to both if you persist in your resolution of not appearing in public at this time, when the enemies of the constitution seem to be working their own destruction. 1743.

The debate on the opening the session will be a very important one; and, as I am informed by my Lord Chesterfield, it is possible we may in a day or two after move for the disbanding the 16,000 Hanoverians*, which scheme, if pursued, will bring the material business of all to the beginning, and will require your attendance no more before the holidays. These points, however, I find are yet undetermined, and will continue to be so till it is known whether we are to have your Grace's advice how to proceed upon them.

I cannot conclude this without once more endeavouring to excuse the freedom I have taken, by assuring your Grace that I should not have done it but at the earnest solicitation of those whom I know to be your real friends: though I may venture to affirm that there is no one that is so with more unfeigned attachment than

Your Grace's, &c.

SANDWICH.

* This debate took place on the 9th of December, on the motion of Lord Sandwich; on which occasion the Duke of Bedford spoke. *Parliamentary History*, vol. xiii. p. 320.

1744.

EARL OF SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, Jan. 10. 1744.

My dear Lord,

In obedience to your Grace's commands I take the liberty to inform you, that the debate on the Hanover troops in our House will be on the 27th of this month : it will be brought on in the House of Commons to-morrow se'nnight, after which we shall call for the estimates, which we shall hardly have before the beginning of next week ; and on the Friday it is proposed to move for an address, as last year, for the disbanding them. The reason why Friday is pitched upon is, that we may have Saturday and Sunday to prepare the protest. I believe there will be a good spirit shown upon the occasion in both Houses, and a very general attendance. This day the witnesses were examined at our bar in relation to the Duke of Beaufort's affair* ; and, indeed, the fact was very clearly and circumstantially proved, to the great entertainment of a very well filled bench of bishops, and a very numerous audience.

As to our theatrical affairs, they go on in a very flourishing way. Draper, who dined with me yesterday, will undertake the part of Doll ; and Price Dashwood, Shirley, and Mackye agree to what is allotted to them. We have settled the form for the

* A bill for the divorce of Frances, wife of Henry third Duke of Beaufort.

scenes, and shall employ a painter to begin them out of hand. Your Grace shall likewise receive the plays of the "Alchemist," and "All for Love," by the first opportunity. 1744.

If you have any other commands before I shall have the pleasure of seeing you in town, I shall esteem it a great honour to be allowed to execute them ; and, in the mean time, hope you will believe me to be

Your most faithful
and obedient servant,
SANDWICH.

I beg your Grace would make my best compliments to the Duchess of Bedford, and to the young ladies.

PHILIP MILLER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Chelsea, Feb. 18. 1743-4.

My Lord,

I have sent a box of American seeds to Bedford House, as also the peck of large white lentils, and the lucern seed ; but the Dutch clover is not as yet arrived in the river, but by the advice sent over, the ship is hourly expected. As soon as it arrives, I have given orders for it to be sent to Bedford House.

Mr. Gordon was here with an order for seeds,

1744. which he had just received from Mr. Wallace, in which he writes for melon seeds ; but as he has none but what he had from me, so I told him not to send any ; for if those which I gave to your Grace are not sufficient, I have more of the same, and I have another parcel arrived, which I shall get on shore the next week, of which I shall send your Grace a share.

Mr. Williamson, the nurseryman, informs me that he has bought some very fine plants of the balm of Gilead fir, which he will answer for their removal with safety : so if your Grace approves of having two of these, and one cedar of Libanus, to plant in the small garden, I will order them to be put into baskets as soon as it will be proper to remove them. The American seeds should not be sown till after the middle of March, by which time I propose to be at Woburn, for I did not look over the seeds : so then I will make a catalogue of them, and dispose them in order for sowing.

I am your Grace's

Most obedient, humble servant,

PHILIP MILLER. *

* The well-known botanist, curator of the apothecaries' company's gardens at Chelsea, and author of the Botanical Dictionary. There are several letters in the collection, from him to the Duke

of Bedford, evincing strongly his Grace's attachment to planting and horticulture, which he preserved amid all the distractions of public business.

1744.

DAVID GARRICK TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

September 11. 1744.

I had obeyed your Grace's commands sooner in sending the account of the scenes and other things, but the person whom I had employed to make the fascces, asps, and garlands for the play of "All for Love" was out of town, and I had no opportunity of knowing his demands till last week. I have sent the account enclosed to your Grace's steward, and shall think myself greatly honoured if I am favoured with any more commands for the future.

I am, my Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient, humble servant,

DAVID GARRICK.

The following is a list of the expenses.

	£	s.	d.
Paid Mr. Leathes, the painter, as per account	31	5	6
Paid Mr. Devasto, painter, for one flat scene			
and two wings - - - - -	10	10	0
Paid Mr. Arthur for the fascces, asps, &c.	1	1	0
Paid the carpenter two bills - - -	5	6	4
	£48	2	10

My lodgings are in James Street, Covent Garden.

1745.

EARL OF SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.*

London, July 4. 1745.

My dear Lord,

We are all greatly alarmed with the melancholy posture of our affairs in Flanders. Yesterday a messenger arrived, bringing an account that a detachment of about 4000† men (mostly Hanoverians), who were sent to throw themselves into Ghent, in order to defend that place threatened with an attack, were intercepted by 17,000 French, and most cut off or made prisoners. Major-General Molk, who commanded this detachment, with about 200 Hanoverian horse and some Austrian hussars, cut his way through the enemy, and escaped to Sluys, where he was refused admittance by the Dutch garrison. He is since arrived at Ostend with this shattered party, which, except about 200 more, who found means with the garrison of the town to get into the citadel of Ghent, are all that he knows to have escaped out of the hands of the French, who have taken possession of the town of Ghent, and are probably by this time masters of the citadel, which, we are informed, is not in a condition to hold

* In the preceding December, the Duke of Bedford had accepted office, as First Lord of the Admiralty.

† "All yesterday we were in the utmost consternation. An express came the night before from Ostend, with an account of the

French army in Flanders having seized Ghent and Bruges, cut off a detachment of four thousand men, surrounded our army, who must be cut to pieces or surrender themselves prisoners." *H. Walpole's Correspondence*, vol. ii. p. 44.

out. What is more fatal is, that Ostend, where the enemy is hourly expected, is not able to defend itself a week, if we may judge from Mr. Hatton's letter to the Duke of Newcastle, who says that the fortifications are ruinous, and that they have neither provisions, ammunition, cannon, or garrison. The whole number of troops in that town amounts only to 1200, to which are to be added General Molk's shattered detachment, which can scarcely swell it to 1500 men. 1745.

As there is no one so sanguine as to think that the French will not soon be masters of Ostend, it behoves us seriously to guard against the dreadful consequences we may be threatened with from their being in possession of that place. This seems, at present, to be the principal consideration of the ministry, who, at a meeting last night at the Duke of Newcastle's, where Lord Vere, Mr. Anson, and I attended, directed us to use all possible expedition to get a fleet into the Downs, to awe the enemy from any attempt they may think of making against this island. We have, in pursuance of this direction, ordered all the three-deck ships that can possibly be assembled to be manned immediately out of those come from the Mediterranean and West Indies, and shall hope in a week or ten days to have six or seven 90-gun ships in the Downs. We have likewise taken measures to assemble as many frigates and sloops as we can get together (without sacrificing our trade by recalling our western cruisers) in the same place, which I hope will be sufficient to

1745. prevent any design the enemy may form against us by sea. We are generally of opinion that great ships as a bulwark, and ships under fifty guns, will be the most likely to prevent any invasion or project of that nature, as the large ships will overawe any fleet they are likely to be able to send out, and the smaller ships be able to destroy any embarkation they may think of making in boats and small craft, and prevent their taking any great advantage from their new acquisition, by rendering it useless to them, by having a fleet of cruisers ready to intercept them in the narrow part of the channel. It will be certainly necessary to have an admiral on whose zeal for the service we may depend to be at the head of this fleet; and I find that the administration in general seem to have no kind of objection to Mr. Vernon, but think it will be decent just to mention it to Sir J. Norris, who, it is certain, will not accept it. If your Grace approves of Mr. Vernon for this command, upon receiving your directions we will order him to the Downs; and if your indisposition should render it improper to come immediately to town and perplex yourself in this troublesome state of our affairs, be assured any orders I receive from you shall be executed to the best of my ability.

I will write by the post if any thing further occurs, as we may expect further particulars every hour. I heartily wish the next account may be better, but from all circumstances I greatly fear it will be worse; so it is well to be prepared against it. There is no certain account of the Duke of Cumber-

land and the main body of our army, what they are doing, or where they are; so that you may imagine the impatience on that head is great. 1745.

The Norwich of 50 guns is launched this day. I should be glad if your Grace would send me word by to-night's post whether we may give her to Captain Elliott Smith (to whom we are under a sort of engagement for a ship of this rate), that we may not lose any time in hurrying her into the Downs.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

Copy of a Report from his Grace the Duke of Bedford, the Earl of Stair, and Field Marshal Wade, to their Excellencies the Lords Justices, relating to Ostend, dated July, 1745.

In pursuance of your Excellency's order of the 9th, we have met; and, after having duly considered the several papers relating to Ostend, we have agreed upon the following report :—

1mo. The Duke of Bedford thinks that, in case of Ostend's being besieged, there will, in a short time, be ready a squadron of ships sufficient for any service that may be necessary on that side, besides a sufficient number of smaller ships, as convoy for passing and repassing, to carry provisions, ammunition, stores, &c.

1745. 2do. According to the Lords Justices' orders, the two battalions are ready to embark, and the transports are ready to take them on board ; which two battalions, with the 2100 men which are already in garrison at Ostend, will make the number of about 3500 effective men, which, though we do not think a garrison sufficient to defend that town, yet it will give the opportunity, and the time necessary for throwing in further supplies from the army in Flanders.

3o. There is actually embarked in this convoy a month's provision for 2000 men ; there is likewise embarked, pursuant to the orders of the Lords Justices, one third part of the artillery and military stores demanded by the Austrians for the defence of Ostend, with 30 bombardiers, gunners, and mattresses, for the service of the artillery.

4to. It is necessary that sums of money should be sent over, sufficient for paying the troops, the workmen, and other exigencies which will happen daily.

5to. Upon the report made by Colonel Braddock, that the British regiments at Ostend have not a sufficient number of small arms, and as it is represented, in one of the letters from Ostend, that the hussars' arms are not fit for service in a siege ; in order to supply those deficiencies, we have ordered 300 firelocks, with cartridge-boxes, &c. to be sent along with the other military stores.

How far these precautions will be sufficient for saving of Ostend is what we cannot determine ; that

must certainly, in a great measure, depend upon 1745.
the movements of the enemy and of our army ; but,
in the mean time, it appears to us, that the things
proposed are the only things that can be done from
hence for hindering Ostend from falling immediately
into the enemy's hands.

(Signed) BEDFORD.
STAIR.
GEORGE WADE.

We, the undersigned, think it our indispensable
duty to express to your Excellencies our apprehen-
sions of our not being able to withdraw the troops that
are now ready to be embarked, together with the
rest of the garrison of Ostend, in case, after a long
siege, or even after the town is completely invested,
it shall be found necessary to evacuate that place ;
for, as the enemy will have it in their power, by
erecting batteries on an adjacent height, to oblige
all the transports to leave the harbour, we very
much doubt the practicability of embarking troops
in an open road, especially where the surf is so
great as it generally is on the Flemish coast.

(Signed) BEDFORD.
GEORGE WADE.

1745.

DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE EARL OF HARRINGTON.*

London, July 26. 1745.

My Lord,

I am obliged to give your Lordship this trouble to receive the King's orders about an affair which I should not have mentioned at present to his Majesty did not the particular circumstances of our naval affairs require his immediate directions in what I am now going to propose. The Duke of Newcastle has, before this, informed your Lordship of Commodore Warren's success at Louisbourg, and of the reduction of that important place under his Majesty's dominion : I cannot sufficiently express the satisfaction I feel in this success of his Majesty's arms, and our having so opportunely co-operated with the naval strength of this country, with Governor Shirley, General Pepperel, and the rest of his Majesty's good subjects of New England, for the entire reduction of this fortress and the islands dependant upon it. Commodore Warren has behaved, in the whole affair, so much like an officer who has nothing so much at heart as his Majesty's service, and so much to the satisfaction of us who employed him, as well as to that of all the officers who had the pleasure to serve under him, and has kept up so good an agreement, by his prudent conduct, with the officers that commanded the land forces, that I should think myself highly deficient in my duty to the

* William first Earl of Harrington, Secretary of State.

King was I not to represent how much I thought 1745.
it was for his Majesty's service, to reward so much
merit in a conspicuous manner. Mr. Warren and
Mr. Byng were the two persons thought of to be
proposed to his Majesty to be appointed flags* at
the next promotion ; and there are but three officers
that are their seniors that will be put by by this
promotion, viz. Captain Dansary, who has the
Tubb's Yacht, (and, consequently, considered out of
the King's military service,) Captain Cotterell, and
Captain Long, neither of which gentlemen we, of
the Board of Admiralty, can recommend to his
Majesty as proper persons to be appointed flag
officers. As this is the true state of the case, I
hope your Lordship, upon representing it to the
King, will find his Majesty disposed to the pro-
moting Mr. Warren and Mr. Byng to the rank of
Rear Admirals of the Blue, especially as Mr. Warren
has, so justly, so great a reputation at Louisbourg,
and as Mr. Byng is looked upon by us as the fittest
person to be sent to command in the second post
under Admiral Medley in the Mediterranean. I send
your Lordship enclosed a list of the admirals, in case
his Majesty should call for it ; and I believe your
Lordship, upon the looking it over, will find it no
difficulty to persuade [the King] that, as it has been
judged expedient to get the great ships (a consider-
able fleet) into the Downs immediately, and as it was
necessary to have an admiral of a high rank at the

* They were appointed Rear Admirals of the Blue on the 10th of August.

1745. head of this fleet, it was impossible for me to pitch on any other than Mr. Vernon, whose zeal and fidelity to his Majesty's service I will be answerable for. I must beg your Lordship to lay these my sentiments, in the most dutiful manner, before his Majesty, and to communicate to me what he shall please to determine upon them.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

EARL OF LEICESTER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Holkham, August 2. 1745.

My Lord,

Lord Sandwich having been so good as to give me information of all that was done by your Grace and him, in regard to the affair of Harwich, and also having given me leave to trouble him with all I desired there, as I plagued him with my letters and many troublesome desires, I would not trouble your Grace with the same, knowing how extreme kindly and cordially you both equally join in obliging me, for which I assure you I shall never think I can do enough to express my gratitude, and therefore I looked on the writing to one as writing to both.

As to Pelham, of the Victualling Office, he has acted as I imagined he would, and sent Lord Sandwich a peremptory refusal to obey his com-

mands, and said he would receive directions how to act from Mr. Pelham, he having been advised, as I am informed by Davis, the collector of the customs at Harwich, to apply to Mr. Pelham for counter-orders from those which Lord Sandwich gave him. How Mr. Pelham, if applied to, will order him I know not, but am sure Davis was a saucy fellow for giving him that advice, and he, Pelham, very impertinent to take it; the Victualling Office and Pelham's place being entirely, as I imagine, under your Grace. As for Cox, he absolutely refused to comply with Lord Sandwich's orders to join my agent, for which Bagnall dismissed him, and put Newel in his room, according to your kind commands. Thus your Grace sees plainly how truly I judged, in telling you and also Mr. Pelham, though he will not yet believe me, that Philipson's* views were to get the borough absolutely to himself, independent of the government; which plainly appears by his having got such people into places as he could depend upon as his own friends, even so far as to lose their places rather than act against him, and those he had been no way instrumental in putting into office he had so far ingratiated himself to, before he would consent they should be chose on the floor, yet even they would lose their places rather than vote against his interest, even for a member of the corporation; how

* In all probability the same the Woods, on Mr. Legge's being that was appointed Surveyor of made a Lord of the Admiralty.

1745. much, therefore, could they be influenced by him
— for a member of parliament! He works so well
with those under me, that they not only refused
my orders in the choice of a burgess, but, even
while in place under me, and in my chief trust,
infamously betrayed me, and not only by my
interest brought in his creatures upon the floor, but
got them places from me myself, till by his (Philip-
son) trying to work out Leaths, who first supported
him, I had, by Leaths, the whole affair discovered to
me. As for Orlibar, surgeon to the sick and
wounded, I fear he will act as the others under your
Grace have done, for Leaths in order to know how
far he would obey Lord Sandwich's commands, en-
deavoured to speak to him, and even wrote to him,
but to no purpose ; he could not get an answer.
Thus you see how he has contrived to manage all
those depending on your Grace's office, and the
chief under mine ; and if Mr. Pelham, who now
supports him, does not immediately take care, he
will get such into his as Mr. Pelham will have as
little power over, and become absolute master of
the borough, in spite of the government, but that
is no fault of ours ; I hope, yet, we may have a
struggle for it, and, happen what will, I have had
what I value much more than the greatest success
in that or any other borough, proofs of your
Grace's and Lord Sandwich's good will to me,
which I assure you will ever make the strongest
impression on me.

It is with very great concern I have heard so

frequently from Lord Sandwich of your being out of order, and fear the *great application you have had to redress the infamous practices of our navy* too much contributes to that. I wish your Grace joy, however, that we already see, in many instances, the good effects of your government and aversion to jobs ; and in particular congratulate you on the good success at Cape Breton, and heartily thank you for being the first that sent me the certain account of that good news. I wish things may at least so far prosper with us as that we may be able to keep it, and then, at least, we shall have something for our expenses in this war. In my poor knowledge of politics, if we keep it, it will hurt the French more than an European province will do them good. I beg pardon for thus troubling you, and being so tedious, but I could not be easy if I had not taken an opportunity to express my gratitude to you, and to assure you I shall ever be with the utmost truth and respect,

Your Grace's, &c. &c.

LEICESTER.*

* Thomas Coke Earl of Leicester in 1759, when the title became extinct, so created in 1744 ; he died extinct.

1745.

MR. PITT TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Lincomb, August 2. 1745.

My Lord,

I received the honour of your Grace's letter, with five bank bills inclosed of 25*l.* each ; as but one quarter is due, I apprehend there is a mistake of 50*l.* in your Grace's wrong, which we will adjust when I have the honour and pleasure of seeing you.

I am always proud of your Grace's remembrance, but I am ashamed you should have given yourself the trouble of writing a letter upon a thing that would have been quite time enough when I came to town. Your Grace has trouble enough upon your hands, (and give me leave to say, thank God you have so much trouble!) not to give yourself any that is unnecessary. I have drunk the waters a fortnight, and find benefit from them in many respects, though my complaint is not totally removed. Your Grace's goodness and friendship to me make me talk to you of myself, without fearing you will think me impertinent. I heartily wish your Grace joy of Cape Breton ; I know you feel national success, and you contribute more than any one to procure it.

I am, with all respect,

Your Grace's most faithful
and devoted servant,
W. PITT.

1745.

EARL OF HARRINGTON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hanover, August $1^{\frac{5}{4}}$. 1745.

My Lord,

I received by the last messenger from England, and laid immediately before the King, your Grace's letter of the 26th past, in answer to which I am now to acquaint you, that the zeal expressed by your Grace for his Majesty's service, and the preparations you were making with so much vigour and activity for the defence of the kingdom against the projected invasion, gave the King great satisfaction; and that your appointing admiral Vernon to command the fleet was very agreeable to his Majesty.

I am likewise commanded by his Majesty to let your Grace know, that he approves your proposal of promoting Mr. Warren and Mr. Byng to the rank of rear-admirals of the blue.

I most heartily congratulate your Grace upon the success that has attended his Majesty's arms in reducing so important a place to his obedience as that of Louisburg, the news of which gave the King the highest satisfaction; and beg leave to assure you of that perfect truth and respect with which I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient
and most humble servant,
HARRINGTON.

1745.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty Office, August 17. 1745.

My dear Lord,

I have received the honour of your Grace's letter, with one enclosed from Lord Wemyss, which I immediately communicated to the remains of our board, together with your Grace's sentiments upon the subject. They are so extremely just and true, that we are very sorry we must plead *inability* against obeying them, though we think no argument of invalidity ought to be pleaded. Your Grace will observe that, by the order of the Regency, we are to allot seven forty-gun ships to Mr. Vernon's squadron. Poverty, alas! will allow us to comply with that order no further than five forty-gun ships will go, of which the Kinsale only is upon the spot, but under orders to go to Campheer with the transports, and afterwards to become of the King's convoy.

The letter* of which your Grace is so kind as to send me a copy, though a little hard of digestion, may, when digested, be very wholesome food. You will receive no reply, so that the affair will drop amicably here; which I am very glad of, for civil war is too much in addition to public invasion. The kindness and generosity of your Grace's conduct to your humble servant throughout this affair he will always be sensible of.

* A letter to Lord Vere Beauclerk, one of the Lords of the Admiralty, relative to an appointment which had taken place without consulting the Duke of Bedford.

We go on very lovingly and comfortably with our monocular secretary*: when one comes to be better acquainted with him, he is not so bad as he looks for. It is true he has but one eye, but then he takes the more exact aim at the matters in question with the remaining one, as it is the constant economy of nature in all her duplicate dispositions, that *one* becomes stronger and does double duty when the *other* is off from guard.

I am, my Lord, your Grace's
Most obliged and obedient humble servant,
H. LEGGE.

ADMIRAL VERNON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Deal, August 28. 1745.

My Lord Duke,

I am honoured with your Grace's letter of the 24th, and greatly indebted to the fruits of your friendly esteem, in the high opinion you are so obliging to entertain of me, which I assure your Grace it shall be my study to deserve by the most diligent care in the punctual execution of all your Grace's orders for our royal master's service; as I know that to be the surest foundation for my preserving the honour of your Grace's good opinion,

* Mr. Corbett.

1745. for which I have the just value that every man ought to have, who glories in a faithful discharge of his duty to the King and his country.

My Lord Duke, I commanded a fifty-gun ship when the Pretender attempted a descent in Scotland, in the year 1708; and though we had then a numerous fleet and a squadron, I think under Admiral Baker, cruising to watch their motions from Dunkirk, yet they pushed by them, and I don't recollect whether they saw them do it, which they might do and not be able to prevent it, as there are three channels for coming out of Dunkirk into the sea, one to the eastward, one to the westward, and the third over the sands to the southward at high water. But we had immediate advice they were sailed, and immediately sailed after them, and our Admiral, my Lord Torrington, conjectured right, or had orders for it; and we made the best of our way to the Frith of Edinburgh, and for fear of being embayed if they were not there, we anchored in the offing, and Captain Hamilton, in the *Lark*, was ordered in for the Isle of May, to know if they were put in there, which he found they were. But it falling out unluckily for us that the wind shifted in the night and came off shore, they were all that distance to windward of us; and they being clean ships, and we all foul but two frigates, the *Dover* commanded by Admiral Matthews, and the *Ludlow Castle* by Admiral Haddock, none of the rest could come up with them, so we only retook our English *Salisbury* from them, one of their squadron. But

had not the wind shifted in their favour, not a timber of that fleet would have escaped us. 1745.

I mention this instance to show the advantage clean ships will always have over foul ones.

But I will beg to suggest one thing more to your Grace, that, suppose the enemy should undertake any such expedition in small clean ships only, and should determine their designs of a disembarkation in some of the bar harbours on the eastern coast of North Britain, where such great ships as we have here can't follow them, might they not make a descent before our faces without our being able to prevent it, and make us only the melancholy spectators of it? which has been a part of my reasons of wishing to see these great ships ordered to the westward, where they could act, and where the enemy seems to be gathering their maritime force together, and have many fine harbours they are not unacquainted with to resort to in the west of Ireland; and that we might rather, if our apprehensions be of an invasion, have a fleet formed in these eastern seas of small ships and frigates, that we could pursue them with in whatever harbour they might make their attempts upon: for on the eastern coasts of North Britain I know of no harbour for great ships but Edinburgh Frith, or Cromarty in the Frith of Murray.

I will just mention to your Grace one thing more. I always thought it a wrong measure to have any of our squadrons appear off an enemy's port, to prevent what they might be for doing from thence, which I

1745. rather esteem to be a sure mark for them, to be taking their measures for doing it securely : and, I believe, if they have any such intentions, they will stay for the winter months to execute it in, when they have long nights and short days, as most proper for their purpose.

What your Grace mentions to me as their Excellencies' desire I shall most carefully pursue, with the means that shall be put in my power ; and the Mary galley, Captain Swanton, and the May Flower, Folkstone cutter, just cleared, under the command of my volunteer, Captain Gregory, are both sailed in the execution of those orders, copies of which orders come enclosed with this, as in my letter to Secretary Corbett by this post.

I will now, before my going off to dinner, leave orders with the clerk of the cheque, and desire the collector of the customs to be enquiring after some other good sailing small craft to employ in that service, and make the agreement, and send them off to me, which I will pay for out of my contingent money.

I am, &c. &c.

E. VERNON.

P. S. In regard to your Grace's obliging post-script, I must beg leave to assure your Grace I would never have presumed to have recommended Mr. Robert Harland to your Grace's favour but on account of his time of service as a lieutenant under Admiral Matthews, when he commanded so large

a fleet in the Mediterranean : and it having been customary to advance such to a command at home. 1745.

I rose gradually myself to be first lieutenant under that gallant and experienced seaman and admiral, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, whose memory I shall ever honour, and whose calm temper and humane behaviour I shall ever pray to God to be able to imitate him in. Vacancies in a fire ship and a bomb happened abroad while I was so, which he very friendly advised me to decline, and when I came home advanced me to a port ship for my first command. Such other examples as this, and the merits of his father's service, who I know to be a gallant officer, having served abroad with him, were the foundations I had to recommend him to your Grace's favour, whose known humane temper I knew would regard them.

DUKE OF BEDFORD TO SAMUEL MEAD, ESQ.

Windsor, August 28. 1745.

Sir,

I have the favour of yours, and am sorry I was out of town when you called upon me. I should be very glad to be of any service to you, in the post I am now, if I thought it compatible with my duty to my King and country ; but as I think including you in the next promotion of admirals (whenever that shall happen) would be inconsistent

1745. with them both, and as I conceive you have a right to know my reasons for thinking so, I shall fairly state them to you. In the first place, I think your having accepted the place of a commissioner of the customs, entirely a civil employment and that requires great attendance at home, seems very justly to preclude you from any pretence to a military advancement ; and, in the second place, your never having served, nor (as I am informed) having applied to the Board of Admiralty for a commission since the commencement of the war against France and Spain, seems wholly to preclude you from an advancement in his Majesty's sea service, especially as so many officers that are your seniors served in the capacity of captains during the whole course of this war. I am sorry that these reasons have so great a weight with me, as to oblige me to inform you that these are my sentiments with regard to your being included in the next promotion of flag officers.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

EARL OF SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, August 30. 1745.

My dear Lord,

As I had the fortune to meet with a very expeditious passage, I have had some leisure to get

some previous information at this place, and have omitted no opportunity of getting what lights I could, some of which will I hope be of service to me. Imagine, on my landing at Helveot, the great satisfaction I received on hearing the news from Italy. Surely this happy event will make my task the easier : I mean by inclining France to agree to such terms as we may with honour accept ; as for any other conditions, I flatter myself your Grace has too good an opinion both of my intentions and understanding, to think I will ever listen to them. If any circumstance about me or my behaviour comes under your Grace's observation, I hope it is not too much to beg you would trouble yourself to give me a hint, for as it is my intention to please, it must be ignorance, and not negligence, that must stand in my way ; and I believe your Grace knows me well enough to be convinced that I am not so prejudiced to myself as not to be able to hear my faults, or not to be persuaded that I am in the wrong, when that is really the case. 1745.

My companion Monsieur de Luçon, by what I can judge as yet, will do extremely well ; his behaviour is very good in public and private, and he shows no backwardness or dislike to go into company and get as much information as he can. I don't know whether he has informed your Grace that I have already set him to work ; I assure you he does his business well, and seems to take a pleasure in being employed, which cannot fail to carry him through with success.

1745. The day of M. de Puysieux's arrival at Breda is not yet fixed, and I am determined not to move from hence till I hear he is actually on the road, as I think it would have an appearance of too much forwardness if I was to be at the place appointed for our meeting any considerable time before him.

I forgot before we parted to put your Grace in mind of a poor man, who, I think, deserves some countenance from us ; the person I mean is Lieutenant Preston, who, added to his uncle's merit, has, as I am assured, a great deal of his own to recommend him, and has, I believe you will think, by this time suffered enough for the sins of his country. I cannot help owning that I have a great accumulation of Scotch recommendation in favour of him, and from one particular person (Gen. Anstruther) that I should be glad to oblige, as I have received many civilities from him ; but I mention this as no argument, any further than that I hope the eagerness of his friends will not, if it is no benefit, be of any disadvantage to him.

As I imagine my antagonists in Huntingdonshire will be taking advantage of my absence to try to stir up an opposition to my brother and Mr. Fellows, which can possibly have no other consequence than putting me to trouble and expense, I should be greatly obliged to your Grace if you would order Mr. Butcher* to write to your agent in our part of the world to engage as many freeholders as will be

* The Duke of Bedford's principal agent.

inclined to obey your Grace's commands, as the 1745.
 appearance of your Grace's declaration in my favour ———
 will have the very best effect.

I beg you would be so good as to make my compliments acceptable to the Duchess, and assure her that nothing will make me so happy as well executing the trust you have committed to me, and that no care or pains shall be wanting that can in any shape contribute to the giving my friend Dick* a proper insight into business, and at the same time an advantageous introduction into the world.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

HON. THOMAS VILLIERS TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Dresden, September 8. 1745.

My dear Lord,

I troubled Y. G. soon after you was invested with ministerial power; I did it for a friend, and from my confidence in your friendship: so, though early in my solicitation, I hope I did not appear too forward; if I did, I must still rely on the principle I was actuated by, and which, I am persuaded, is of the greatest weight with Y. G. This persuasion

* The Honourable Richard Leveson Gower, second surviving son of John, first Earl Gower.

1745. makes me again importunate; it is now with regard to myself, and I have the vanity (and a most pleasing one it is) to think that my happiness or misery are not to Y. G. matters of indifference: it don't arise from my sincere affection to you only, but likewise from what Y. G. has expressed for me. But lest too long a preface should be inconsistent with our way of living before plaguy business and plaguy rheumatism interrupted us, of which the jollity and freedom made even England more agreeable to me, I will come to my point: it is to be recalled and live amongst you. I have lately mentioned in my public dispatch my unhappiness at being here, but I would have it understood that my zeal for the public service is ever the same. My private desire, after about 19 years' rambling, is to show it with more distinction than I shall probably be hereafter able to do at Dresden, or to enjoy my friends and retirement. When the G. D. is chosen Emperor, as I hope he will be before this comes to hand, this court will be fitter for an apprentice than for one who has served his time, especially when the war with Prussia ceases, and by its nature it can't be of long duration. Yet, my dear Lord, should I, by the assistance of a good friend, be even well settled at home, there is no felicity I won't quit, even to go to Ispahan, should it be ever thought that I can be of any important service to my country: and being thus opening my mind, which, though troublesome, seems right to do, as I have some reason to flatter myself Y. G. will rectify it, or relieve it, I must

own that I was in hopes of deserving, by the most ardent labours and excessive fatigue, some more solid reward than the frequent verbal approbations I have been honoured with, which afford great comfort, but don't sufficiently help a younger brother's fortune; and to show what I imagine entitles me to this inward grievance, (for I never before divulged it,) I will only mention, with less prolixity than is common to an egotist, some few things I have been concerned in since the demise of Charles VI., when I left London at the shortest warning, and made the journey with such expedition, that in three weeks from my departure my courier returned with satisfactory answers to every point of my instructions: I consequently had great hand in making a treaty between this court and that of Vienna, which indeed, though signed, was not carried into execution for reasons not to be repeated; yet it was a most painful negotiation. I afterwards had so large a share in bringing about the peace between these two courts that His Majesty gave my old servant, whom I despatched with the act, 100*l*. I then was sent to the court of Vienna, and into the empire, to prevent the forming an army of neutrality, intended by the late Emperor, France and Prussia, against the house of Austria, and none was raised. I next hurried to the election at Mentz, and carried all his Majesty's and the Queen of Hungary's interest for Count Ostein, though my instructions favoured another, but whom I found equally recommended by our enemies. I

1745.

1745. believe all the well-intentioned in Europe approve the choice. I believe I may likewise say, that I laid the first stone of our alliance with him and the Elector of Cologne. What share I have had in the treaty of Warsaw is more public, and what pains to bring this court to renounce the Imperial dignity, and vote for the G. D., is also well known. I will not trouble your Grace with lesser things, with the obstacles I have had to surmount, nor the despatch I have often made, at the risk of my constitution, and even my life, as is but too manifest by the fate of some who have been about me ; for all which endeavours to be useful I have already mentioned the sole recompence I have received. I haven't even the extraordinary allowance which I believe all other plenipotentiaries now employed have ; but as I have the 8*l.* per day, the difference is not what I seek at present. Perhaps my misfortune is my unwillingness to ask favours, which your Grace will have less reason to believe than any great man I ever yet knew ; but I never lived with one on the same footing, and as my different banishments have never affected your kindness to me, I can but depend on it, and have therefore ventured to expose my case, and perhaps myself, but in such confidence that I must beg your Grace will burn this letter when you have had leisure to read it ; it is so confounded long, that I have a great mind to save you that trouble, but I longed once to let you know my most secret thoughts ; it seemed a duty on me, at least towards myself, especially as they are per-

fectly consistent with the great esteem and respect with which I have the honour to be, &c. &c. 1745.

THOMAS VILLIERS. *

P. S. If your Grace should be pleased to interfere in my affairs, and there should be ever any thoughts of sending me to the King of Prussia, it may be truly alleged that I am the most improper person, having been so often employed against him; besides it is tossing me out of the frying-pan into the fire. The apprehension of appearing vain, and other reasons, makes me again beg that this letter may be destroyed, or kept secret.

THE EARL OF CHESTERFIELD TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Dublin Castle, September 17. 1745.

My Lord,

Your Grace will remember that some time ago I laid a complaint before the regency of the cruel manner in which the French prisoners at Kinsale were treated; and I have now the honour of assuring your Grace that they are not in any degree better used than they were then; which I am sure is very contrary to your Grace's intentions.

* Hon. Thomas Villiers, second Earl of Clarendon in 1776, died son of the second Earl of Jersey, December 11. 1786. created Lord Hyde in 1756, and

1745. Brigadier de Grangues, a man of truth and honour, is just come from thence ; and has assured me of his own knowledge, that those unhappy people are more inhumanly treated than negroes in the West Indies. One Newman, who takes care of them, and who I suppose is appointed by the commissioners of sick and wounded, not only defrauds them of good part of what the government allows them, but loads them with irons if they complain. His deputy, one Webb, is an apothecary at Kinsale, who when his master has made them sick either by starving or bad food, crams and drenches them with his physic, and then ruins them with his bills. Though I have no power over Mr. Newman, I could not hear of his brutalities without letting him know that I knew them, and reprimanding him for them. I have accordingly had him writ to, and acquainted that I intended to lay the affair before your Grace ; which in common humanity I thought myself obliged to do.

By the accounts we have here from Scotland, nothing is more ridiculous than that rascally Highland army, with which his Royal Highness Prince Charles intends to conquer us, except it be our army that runs away from such a pack of scoundrels. But if they have no foreign assistance, which your Grace will take good care to prevent or intercept, there must be soon an end of them one way or another. I wish other things now depending may end as well as I am persuaded this rebellion will. I need not, I believe, assure

your Grace, that no man living can be with greater truth and respect than 1745.

I am, &c.

CHESTERFIELD.

LORD STAIR TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, October 11. 1745.

My Lord,

I have just received the honour of your Grace's letter, and am extremely glad to find by it that your levies are so far advanced : it is what I always expected from your Grace's zeal and diligence, and I doubt not to hear in a few days that your regiment is complete. *

I have the honour, &c.

STAIR.

By our new news from the North, it looks as if the rebels were upon the point to leave Edinburgh, it being now plain that they cannot take the Castle.

* The raising these regiments gave rise to a great deal of abuse of the noblemen who commanded them ; Sir C. H. Williams gives an account of it in his ballad, entitled the Heroes. H. Walpole, however, allows that the Duke of Bedford served with his. There are several letters from the Duke to his family when with his regiment, in the appointing of which and its discipline he took very great pains.

1745.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

October 17. 1745.

My Lord Duke,

I received a letter last post from Captain Keppell, acquainting me that Captain Rogers of the *Maidstone* is in so bad a state of health as not to be able to go to sea in her by the time she will be refitted, which Captain Rogers has signified himself to the board. Keppell desires he may succeed in his command, if your Grace is not otherwise engaged, the *Sapphire* being in so bad a condition as to require a considerable time to refit her. I would, upon no account, interest myself in his behalf if I was not convinced that he will, upon all occasions, acquit himself with honour and reputation ; but if Lord Sandwich has any thoughts of his brother, I would by no means interfere.

We have been alarmed by General Cope's letter of the 12th instant, which mentions eight large ships being seen off Berwick, which, I own, I could give no credit to, for such a number of ships could never pass through our channel undiscovered, considering what a number of cruisers we have out, and it is very late for ships to come north about, nor do we miss that number of small ships from Dunkirk, or the western ports of France. I am in pain for the *Lyon*, who parted from Admiral Martin off Torbay in a hard gale of wind, not being able to carry sail to get into the Bay ; she had not then a night's drift ; she can be no where but in Portland

Road, and it is six days that we have not heard of her. I have seen various accounts about the number of the rebels ; and by what I can collect from them, they don't amount to above six or seven thousand, and do not increase, nor find any people in England inclined to join them, which makes one think they will not come on to the southward, which they give out. I hope your Grace's regiment is near complete, and that we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing you in town ; being, &c. &c.

G. ANSON.

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, October 17. 1745.

My dear Lord,

I should sooner have returned your Grace my thanks for the honour of your letter, but that I thought I should have the pleasure of seeing you in town the beginning of this week. I immediately presented the address to the King, who ordered me to return your Grace his thanks for the constant marks of your zeal for his service. I have spoke to the King about the out-pensioners of Chelsea College, as your Grace desired. His Majesty much approves of your proposal, and I will speak to the secretary-at-war, that the proper directions may be given about it. I am glad to hear of your Grace's success in raising your regiment ; I never doubted but that

1746. it would be a very useful one, and the first completed. As I have always most sincerely the greatest desire to obey your Grace's commands, I hope you will have the goodness, in my present great hurry, to forgive my omission in not writing sooner, and be assured that I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

DUKE OF BEDFORD TO ADMIRAL WARREN.

London, October 30. 1745.

Sir,

I am favoured with yours of the 4th instant, and did, immediately upon the receipt, lay the contents of it before his Majesty, who, upon your request, does agree to your declining continuing governor of Louisbourg. I have the satisfaction to inform you, that his Majesty is perfectly satisfied with your conduct in the execution of this whole affair, and is thoroughly sensible of the importance of the preserving this conquest to us, which has been so happily effected by your conduct and prudence. I hope we shall be able to send you a strong reinforcement of ships of war very early in the spring, and I doubt not but that his Majesty will fix upon some proper person to relieve you in the government of Louisbourg, by the ships that will then be sent out to you. Give me leave, Sir, to assure you of the great part I have taken in the general joy:

the news of your success spread all over the kingdom ; and, at the same time, to express the real satisfaction I shall feel in doing what lies in my power to serve you in this part of the world. 1746.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

ADMIRAL VERNON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Deal, January 3. 1745-6.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace having, from a nobleness of mind and humanity of temper becoming your high birth, espoused the cause of an injured innocent person, and honoured with marks of your generous friendship an officer you thought deserving of it, so as to become his advocate and procure his being restored to his rank in the royal navy, and employed in it accordingly at this critical conjuncture as a testimony of your Grace's confidence that he had judgment to execute it, and an honest zeal for approving himself a faithful, zealous, and diligent officer and servant to our Royal Master.

And I hope in God, as well I believe it to be sincerely true, that this officer, in the person of your humble servant the writer, has had that just regard for the discharge of the duty confided to him, through your Grace's means, that he may with confidence assert, that he has acted so circumspectly,

1746. diligently, and assiduously, in the execution of that trust, as to have manifested to the world that your Grace was neither deceived in your judgment of his capacity for the service of the crown, nor his inclination to discharge his duty to our Royal Master, with a sincere honest zeal for approving himself his Majesty's faithful subject and servant, which he had the double incitement to of his duty to the King, and the just regard he ought to have for justifying your Grace in the good opinion you had entertained of him.

As I am conscious I have done nothing unjustly to forfeit that good opinion that engaged your Grace to honour me with your patronage and friendship, I entertain too good an opinion of your Grace to think I have not the continuance of it, notwithstanding the late incident of my being hunted out of my command, by the operative malice of some malicious and industrious agent, that is too well screened over for my being able particularly to discover him and point out who it is ; so that must remain to me a secret, till some happy providence in the course of time may more clearly discover it; not being nevertheless doubtful in my own mind but I can trace the original cause of it, and guess pretty nearly at who may be the concealed director of it.

As the pen of the secretary of the Admiralty conveyed these bitter shafts that were levelled at me, I thought I might suggest that his pen might come tinged with a gall flowing from his own mind,

beyond the direction he might receive for it ; from 1746.
which I thought it my duty to acquit him, on a gentlemanlike apology in regard to his office, which I was no stranger to its being his duty to obey, and in an assurance of a good will he had always professed, and I well knew I had never given him occasion to alter the sentiments of a professed friendship for me.

And on one of the occasions taken to justify this conduct towards me, having been, that I had within the channel of England on a ship's service being immediately wanted for proceeding to sea, and being without a gunner, certainly a necessary officer for her defence, and which I could not think myself justified in permitting to go to sea without such an officer, presumed, as it is called, to warrant a gunner to her, for proceeding to sea in her, as I judged to be absolutely necessary for his Majesty's service and the defence of the ship. And having now stated the fact, I shall proceed to give your Grace my sentiment in that particular, viz. that it is my opinion that when the Crown has ordered the Admiralty to fit out a fleet for the service of the government in the channel of England or on foreign service, and the Admiralty had commissioned them out of sea officers on shore, and appointed the Admiral to command in chief, in pursuance of his Majesty's pleasure, and the fleet were assembled together : that to support the command of the officer the King had approved, it was the government's interest that the commander-in-chief should name

1746. all offices that fell vacant, and has not been denied while the depending service was essential. But pretences from the Admiralty that the ships were not assembled or not under orders, and as checks are in their power, they have contradicted it, though always to the prejudice of the Crown's service. For when the people of the fleet see their commander-in-chief can neither support their pretensions of merit, nor his own authority over them, they must naturally look after those who are no judges of their service, and renders the commander contemptible to the fleet.

This power is known to have been absolute in the commanders-in-chief in the Channel, and in one who has added honours to your Grace's family; and when that power has been wanting has, I believe, been always found prejudicial to the service of the Crown and prosperity of the kingdom.

And having given your Grace the trouble of reading my sentiments in this particular, I will now proceed to declare that it is my opinion that this is the sentiment of Sir John Norris likewise; and that your Grace has most grossly been imposed upon, in the assertion of Sir John Norris being of a contrary opinion. And I thank God that Sir John Norris is now living, who can satisfy your Grace, his Majesty, or the public, what are his sentiments, whenever it be thought proper to take his opinion upon it.

Your Grace may think I talk with much confidence of Sir John Norris's opinion at this distance;

but when I inform your Grace that I have served immediately under his command as a lieutenant, when he served as first captain under that brave, honest, and experienced admiral, Sir Cloudesley Shovel, that was an honour to his country and the service, and whom I believe that no man knew that did not love and esteem him, and I have on several occasions served as a captain under Sir John Norris, whom I know to be a consummately experienced and gallant sea-officer, and have lived in an uninterrupted friendship with him, your Grace will not be surprised that I venture to assert what is his opinion as well as my own; and were you to consult Admiral Mathews or Sir Challoner Ogle, though I don't pretend to give you my opinion now in regard to them, yet I do verily believe this to be their opinion likewise. But of this it is easily in your Grace's power to satisfy yourself. 1746.

I shall now only add, that I am at present detained here for having my baggage embarked for proceeding to Harwich in one of the armed vessels Vice Admiral Martin has been so obliging to assign me to carry my baggage to my house on the Ipswich river.

I propose at present being in London by Tuesday or Wednesday night: whenever it is, I shall be at your Grace's door the next morning after my arrival, in order to pay my duty to your Grace; and afterwards before I set out for Suffolk, if it has your Grace's approbation, to be presented by you to pay my duty to his Majesty.

1746. And the favour I shall now desire of your Grace is, that your porter may have orders from you to let me in, if such a visit be agreeable to your Grace, and, if not, that I may be told so, not to give an unnecessary trouble to him or myself.

I have begun with expressing a grateful sense of the testimony of the friendship you have honoured me with, which on all events I shall ever retain a grateful sense of; as I may say it is a sort of hereditary inclination in our family to have entertained an honour for your Grace, from the memory of that glorious martyr for the liberties of his country, my Lord William Russell, the memory of which has in some manner been transmitted to posterity with my father's* hand, whom I think was the draftsman of the ducal patent in your Grace's family. And have heard it much commended, both for the elegance of the style, and the just honours done to a nobleman of so many amiable qualities, unsullied by any vices that ever I heard of.†

That your Grace may live and die as great an honour to your family, shall ever be the sincere wishes of, &c. &c.

E. VERNON.

* James Vernon, secretary to the Duke of Monmouth, afterwards chief clerk to the Duke of Shrewsbury, and secretary to the Lords Justices, during the absence of King William.

† Sir John Barrow, in his *Life of Lord Anson*, has quoted a

letter of Admiral Vernon's reflecting on the "degeneracy" of the Duke of Bedford. But as the letter was written in June, 1744, the terms used must be intended for Lord Winchelsea, and not the Duke of Bedford. — *Life of Anson*, p. 133.

DUKE OF CUMBERLAND TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD. 1746.

Stirling, Feb. 3. 1745-6.

My Lord,

Amongst a million of letters taken in the quarters of the rebels, this was found; it came from a purser of one of the Kings' ships, commanded by Captain Montagu: as I know your zeal for (the) King's service, I take the first occasion of informing you of it, that you may take your own measures for the punishment of such a villain. Our success has been rather too rapid here; for it would have been much more preferable both for the troops and for the extirpation of this rabble that they had stood, as I am certain the troops would have behaved as they ought; but now they will, I believe, have no occasion, for I reckon them almost all dispersed by this time, there being no more on this side Perth yesterday. I shall march to-morrow.

I am

Your affectionate friend,

WILLIAM.

DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

Feb. 11. 1745-6.

Sir,

I was honoured with your Royal Highness's commands by last night's post, and will take care,

1746. as far as lies in my power, that an inquiry shall be made into the character of the purser, and whether he is liable to any suspicion of disaffection. I must own, for my part, I am inclined to hope the words made use of in the letter, "of the country being freed from usurpation and rebellion, according to every good man's wish, and yours," may be justly construed his wishes for the extirpation of this rebellion. As the necessity of the times has obliged me this day to ask his Majesty's permission to resign my employment as first commissioner of the Admiralty, and consequently puts it out of my power to put your Royal Highness's orders in execution immediately under my own eye, I will direct our secretary, Mr. Corbett, to lay Mr. Stuart's letter before the Lords that his Majesty shall be pleased to appoint to succeed us, in order that a thorough inquiry may be made of this affair, as soon as the ships return from their cruise.

I have, &c.

BEDFORD.

SIR THOMAS HANMER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD

Mildenhall, near Newmarket, in Suffolk,
March 15. 1745.

My Lord,

If I were not prevented by an ill state of health from taking journeys of any length, I should

certainly wait upon your Grace, and be glad even of an excuse of business, to introduce me to one for whom I have so great an honour. Confined as I am to narrow bounds, I must now venture at the liberty of giving you a trouble of this kind, which I hope your Grace will pardon, for they who have a great power of doing good, and a generous disposition to exert it, must expect to be solicited. 1746.

I am one of the unhappy proprietors in the South Level of the Fens, and situated so near it that I very well know the condition of it, which hath been long declining from bad to worse, and is now come to that pass that if a speedy remedy be not applied, it must be utterly lost. The grievance is great and general, extending to a great tract of country, and affecting a very great number of people, whose dependence is wholly upon your Grace. They know you have already employed men of the best eminence and skill to give their opinion how the mischief may be redressed, and they are very thankful for this mark they have received of your Grace's desire to help them. Upon the continuance of your favour and justice they rely, and we all hope your Grace will not be discouraged by any opposition from proceeding to the execution of such measures as to your great discernment shall appear most effectual towards preventing the ruin with which we are threatened.

I am, &c.

THOMAS HANMER.

1746.DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD,
AND OTHERS.

Whitehall, March, 28. 1746.

My Lords and Sir,

I send you herewith, by his Majesty's order, a letter from his Grace the Duke of Bedford, containing a proposal for undertaking an expedition against the French settlements in North America, and the immediate sending a body of troops from hence for that purpose ; and I am commanded to signify to you his Majesty's pleasure, that you should take the same into your consideration, and forthwith report your opinion what force by land and sea, as well as what supply of ordnance stores, may be necessary for such an expedition, and in what time the same may be got ready to depart from hence ; as also at what time they may probably arrive in North America, and in what month it is necessary they should be there ; with a particular specification of the several articles that may be requisite for this expedition, that, if his Majesty shall think it advisable to undertake it, no time may be lost in giving the proper orders for that purpose.

I am, my Lords and Sir, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

Duke of Bedford, first Lord Commissioner
of the Admiralty, Duke of Montagu,
Master General of the Ordnance, or in
his absence Marshall Wade, Lieutenant
General of the Ordnance, and Lieutenant
General St. Clair.

1746.

JOINT REPRESENTATION OF THE DUKE OF BEDFORD
AND OTHERS TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

London, March 30. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

In obedience to his Majesty's commands signified to us by your Grace, we have taken the proposal referred to us relating to the reduction of Canada into our consideration, and do most humbly offer these our sentiments thereupon to his Majesty.

1st. That it appears to us absolutely necessary that in case his Majesty should think proper to set forward this expedition, that a body of regular troops should be sent from hence not less than 3500 in number, which with the battalions sent from Gibraltar last autumn, and Major General Frampton's regiment, already ordered to proceed to Louisbourg, will as we conceive amount to the number of 5000 men, which we imagine will be, in all probability, a force sufficient to effect the entire reduction of Canada.

2d. That as the regiments from Gibraltar, together with the battalion of Frampton's, were designed as a reinforcement to the garrison of Louisbourg, but are now proposed to proceed on this expedition, and as we are informed the New England troops now there are much diminished by sickness, we would most humbly propose that his Majesty should be pleased to give orders for

1746. the raising one more regiment at least in America on the British establishment, in order to garrison in conjunction with the regiments of Sir Wm. Pepperel, and Governor Shirley, the city of Louisbourg during the time of this expedition. And we do conceive that these regiments, though newly raised, will be equal to the duty expected from them during the ensuing summer, as it cannot be imagined that whilst so considerable a naval force is kept in those seas as is intended, the French can venture to form any attempt upon Louisbourg, or even, with any probability of success, on Annapolis and Nova Scotia; and it is also humbly submitted to his Majesty, whether, in case the designed expedition meets with the success we have reason to hope for, the three above-mentioned regiments (in which may be incorporated the independent companies now on foot in America) will be more than sufficient for so vast an extent of country as his Majesty will then possess in the continent of North America.

The naval force necessary for the carrying into execution so great a design should, in our opinion, consist of about 20 ships, or sloops of war, besides bomb-vessels and fire-ships, and may be (as we are informed by the Duke of Bedford) completed to that number from hence without any prejudice to his Majesty's service.

That in regard to ordnance stores, we apprehend that as Louisbourg is at present in his Majesty's possession—to which place great quanti-

ties of all sorts of stores have been already sent, and of which we may avail ourselves, as far as they can be spared with security to that garrison—an equal number of all sorts of stores to what was embarked for the expedition in 1711 (of which we enclose a copy to your Grace) will be sufficient to be now sent, especially as, upon occasion, the ship guns may be used on any batteries that shall be necessary to be erected, if proper care is taken to send carriages, or at least materials for making them, in order to be able to transport the ship guns to the intended batteries.

1746.

That we apprehend the transports for the troops, the ordnance and victualling stores, as also the necessary convoy to proceed with them to Louisbourg, may be all ready to put to sea within the month, provided immediate orders are given for the using the utmost despatch to forward the several steps that are necessary to be taken in an affair of so great importance, and towards the success of which nothing, in our humble opinion, is so likely to conduce as the losing no time in the beginning.

As the time of the arrival of this armament must greatly depend, as in all other naval expeditions, upon the contingencies of wind and weather, it is impossible for us to pretend to ascertain any fixed time for its arrival at Quebec; but flatter ourselves that as we cannot reasonably imagine it can, in any probability, be retarded beyond the middle of July, we think that, even in that case, there will be more than sufficient time to complete the reduction of

1746. Canada before the commencement of the winter, till which time, we apprehend, all operations both of the fleet and army may be carried on with the greatest security and safety.

As we are directed to transmit to your Grace a particular specification of the several articles that may be necessary to be provided for this service, we have made it our business to inquire, in the best manner we are able, of the several species of stores of all kinds that may be necessary, but must leave the particular detail of each to the respective Boards of Ordnance, Navy, and Victualling, as likewise to the Secretary at War as to what relates to every thing needful for the land forces.

We would likewise take the liberty to mention, that immediate advice of this design should be sent to Admiral Warren and the Governors of Massachusetts and New York, to be by them communicated to the several Governors on the continent, in order to enable them to take, with their respective assemblies, the proper steps for the raising and rendezvousing, in proper places, as great a number of men as the shortness of the time will allow them, to act in conjunction with the King's troops, and under the command of such general officers as his Majesty shall please to appoint to command in this expedition. It will likewise be necessary to direct Mr. Shirley and the several governments of New England to procure transports for the New England forces, who are proposed to proceed by sea, and up the river of St. Lawrence, as also to all the govern-

ments in general, to obtain of their several provinces 1746.
 as great a number of armed vessels as they can, to
 act in conjunction with, and be under the command
 of his Majesty's Admiral commanding in chief.
 We believe that it is not necessary to suggest that
 the Indian nations in alliance with us may be of
 great use in scouring the woods and reducing the
 open country of Canada, and we know no more
 likely method of gaining them than the directing
 the several governors on the continent to invite
 them into it, by the promise of plunder, and some
 small presents, such as powder, ball, fire-arms, &c.,
 in order to enable and encourage them to act vigour-
 ously in conjunction with his Majesty's troops.

We beg of your Grace to lay these our thoughts
 before his Majesty, in obedience to his royal com-
 mands.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, April 24. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I heartily congratulate you on the end of
 the rebellion in Scotland, which I hope is at last
 effected. It is unnecessary for me to mention parti-
 culars, as the two extraordinary Gazettes of last
 night and to-day contain the whole. One circum-
 stance I think very remarkable, which is, that the

1746. havoc made among the rebels was not by keeping
——— them off by our fire, but by receiving them with the
bayonets, which did great execution. I wish I
could give you as good an account of our sea operations, but am sorry to say what we expected is come to pass. The Devonshire is arrived at Spithead, and left Admiral Martin, the 21st instant, 13 leagues from Scilly, with only eight ships, most of them sickly and short of provisions, so that in all probability by to-morrow's post we shall hear of the Admiral's arrival at Plymouth, with all his squadron. You will observe, by the number of ships with him, that he has never been joined by the Ruby, though she sailed the 29th of last month, nor by the Defiance and Salisbury; they sailed the 10th of April, and the Brest fleet the 19th; and as Captain Edgecumbe's orders were to proceed directly off Brest to join Admiral Martin, I am under some apprehensions that they may be fallen in with the French fleet. This is a very melancholy account, in my opinion, of our present situation; but the danger does not end here; since, by the distress of Admiral Townshend's squadron, our force at Louisbourg will be very inferior to that of the enemy, in case this squadron is destined for America: if it is intended for the West Indies their superiority will be still the greater, and their success in any enterprize in that part of the world too probable not to give very great apprehensions. The measures to be taken in this critical conjuncture are of too great importance for Legge, Lord Barrington,

and I (the only persons at the Board, or in town,) 1746.
to determine; and it is on that account we give your
Grace this trouble, that we may know yours and
Mr. Anson's sentiments upon the occasion.

A privateer has taken two rich ships from Martinico (besides those brought in by the *Alexander* of Bristol), and has intelligence from his prisoners, that a very valuable convoy of St. Domingo ships may be expected in France in about six weeks. Our present intention is to hasten out the Western Squadron, which we shall be able to do immediately, and to send them into the Bay to intercept this convoy, if possible; but if you disapprove of this, we shall be in time to make any alterations when we have received your Grace's commands.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

When I begun to write this letter I thought to send it by the post, but, as it goes by express, it will bring you the first account of the particulars of the action in Scotland.

The rebels are all dispersed and fled to their several homes, after throwing down their arms. Our men gave little quarter, so that upwards of 1000 are killed: the prisoners taken, Lord Kilmarnock, Murray the secretary, and Sir James Wedderburn. On our side are killed Lord Robert Kerr and Captain Grossett. Colonel Rich has lost one of his hands, and 130 private men killed. The only clans that behaved well were the Frazers and Macdonalds;

1746. all the others, particularly Lord Lewis Gordon's, very pitifully: the Pretender went off with only ten horsemen.
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DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, April 24. 1746.

My Lord,

As I know how agreeable it must be to your Grace to hear of the success of his Majesty's arms against the rebels, I cannot deny myself the pleasure of despatching this messenger to acquaint you that Lord Bury, Aide-de-camp to his Royal Highness the Duke, arrived this morning, with a letter from his Royal Highness to the King, which confirms the account received yesterday from Edinburgh of his Royal Highness's having entirely defeated the rebel army, on Culloden Moor, near Inverness, on Wednesday the 16th instant.

The enclosed printed paper contains the particulars that came yesterday from the Lord Justice Clerk: all of which are now confirmed by Lord Bury, with very little variation or addition. The number of the rebels is said to have been 8000. They made their attack in two columns, but were received by the King's troops with so much firmness and resolution that they were very soon put to flight. About 1000 of them were left dead on the field of battle, and 600 made prisoners, amongst

whom are the Earl of Kilmarnock, Murray of 1746.
Broughton, secretary to the Pretender's son, Sir
John Wedderburn, the person called the French
ambassador, and many others. Lord Strathallan is
said to be killed. Three pickets of the French, to
the number of about 300 men, are made prisoners;
but their commander, Lord John Drummond, made
his escape. On our side Lord Robert Kerr was
killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel Rich lost his hand:
both these were of Burrel's regiment; and Captain
Grossette of Price's was killed. Of private men
about 100 were killed or wounded. We have all
the rebels' cannon, and some colours; and, upon the
whole, it was a complete victory. Lord Bury was
despatched on the 16th, soon after the battle, so
that we are still without many particulars. He
came by sea, and, meeting with contrary winds and
bad weather, landed at North Berwick on Monday
last, and came post from thence to London. I
most heartily congratulate your Grace upon this
great event, which, I hope, will be soon followed by
the entire suppression of this wicked rebellion.

* * * * *

(The conclusion of this letter is wanting.)

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

1746.

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, April 22.

My Lord,

I would (have) waited upon your Grace this evening, if you had been at home, to have talked to your Grace upon the motion made this day by Lord Oxford *, in the House of Lords, for the papers that were laid before the House of Commons. As I apprehend this will be the only material debate we shall have this session, I cannot but wish it was possible for us to have the honour of your Grace's presence, which would give such weight to our proceedings, and is of the utmost consequence to the administration, and, indeed, to the King's service. I am sensible it must be very inconvenient to your Grace, either to put off your journey, or to come to town on purpose ; and I should be extremely glad to contrive it in any way that would be most convenient for you. It will be impossible to bring it on before some time next week. If your Grace does not go to-morrow too early in the morning for me to wait upon you, I should be mighty glad to have the honour of seeing you before you go.

I am, &c.

HOLLES. NEWCASTLE.

* For papers relative to the war in Flanders. The notes of the debate upon that occasion, May 2., from the original, in the handwriting of Lord Chancellor Hardwicke, will be found in the

Parliamentary History, vol. xiii. p. 1407. An account of the debate is in Coxe's *Memoirs of the Pelham Administration*, vol. i. p. 313. The motion was negatived by 81 against 26.

MR. STONE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1746.

Whitehall, April 26. 1746.

My Lord,

I have the honour to acquaint your Grace, that a messenger arrived this day with letters from his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, dated at Inverness the 18th instant, and containing further particulars of the victory obtained by his Majesty's troops over the rebels ; which appears to have been more considerable, as to the number of men lost by them, than was at first imagined. The account sent by his Royal Highness makes the number of the rebels killed, on the field of battle, and in the pursuit, to amount to 2000 : other letters, by this messenger, say 2500 ; and they all agree that the rebels themselves acknowledge that they have lost from 3000 to 4000 men. Many of their chiefs are killed ; amongst whom are Lord Strathallan, Lord Balmerino, (and, it is strongly reported, the Duke of Perth, though that is not so certain,) Cameron of Lochiel, Appen, Kinloch, and many others of the rank of Colonel ; and it is supposed by the rebel prisoners that many of their chiefs are killed who are not yet known. There is a long list of prisoners, many of which are of considerable rank ; but I do not find Murray of Broughton's name amongst them. All their cannon, all their baggage, and twelve colours are taken ; in short, there never was known a more total defeat. The Pretender's son fled very early, and was seen to pass Fort Augustus, with

1746. only eight men in his company. He lay that night at Lord Lovat's. Brigadier Mordaunt was sent the next day by his Royal Highness into that country, and went to Lord Lovat's house ; but found it empty, and left it in flames. The rebels are supposed to be, in a manner, totally dispersed ; his Royal Highness not having been able to learn that there was any considerable number of them any where together, so that he was at a loss which way to pursue them.

We had about 50 men killed, (officers included, of whom there were none of the rank of Captain, but Lord Robert Kerr and Captain Grossette,) and about 250 wounded. The Earl of Cromartie and his son, Lord Macleod, with about 150 private men, are brought prisoners from the county of Sutherland to Inverness. This is, to the best of my memory, the substance of the account contained in his Royal Highness's letter, which my Lord Duke knew would be so agreeable to your Grace that he has ordered me to send it to you by express : his Grace bids me at the same time acquaint you, that the King, this day, gave him leave to acquaint Mr. Pitt that he should be Paymaster General* ; but it is not yet made public, so that your Grace will be pleased, for the present, not to mention it. My Lord Duke returns your Grace many thanks for the honour of your letter, which he received this morning. He bids me say, that Friday next will be the day of

* He was appointed Paymaster General of the Forces, May 6.

debate in the House of Lords, and that he will write to your Grace by a messenger before that time. 1746.

I am, &c.

ANDREW STONE.*

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, April 26. 1746.

My dear Lord,

The Salisbury, Ruby, and Defiance, instead of being taken by the enemy, have brought into Plymouth a French man-of-war of 40 guns, called the Ambuscade. She had 365 men on board, 26 of which were killed and wounded. The Defiance was the only ship that got fairly up to her (the others were in sight), and had the good fortune to lose only one man. She is, by Captain Powlett's account, one of the finest frigates in the world, but just a year old, and carries 28 guns upon one deck. She sailed from Brest the 16th instant; and though little can be got from the French officers, yet there is some grounds to think, from what can be collected among the prisoners, that the Brest fleet may not be sailed. We have ventured, on this intelligence (considering the very great importance it may be to the public service to keep that squadron from going to sea), to order Admiral Martin to sail immediately.

* Private secretary to the Duke of Newcastle.

1746. The Hampton Court, Defiance, Salisbury, Ruby, and Portland, are already sailed, and may, I hope, be joined in a few days by the Admiral with eight other ships of the line, which will form a very strong and sufficient squadron.

I cannot omit this opportunity to inform your Grace of a private transaction, which I now learn to be in agitation, and I must own gives me much concern. Your Grace was so good as to impart to me the destination of the several employments vacated by the promotions in consequence of Sir J. Cotton's resignation : I was very sorry to find my friend Halifax left out on this occasion, but was entirely satisfied that it was owing to Lord Gower's diffidence and want of resolution to lay in his claim early enough ; and thought that Lord Halifax ought, on that account, to acquiesce, and wait for some more favourable conjuncture, rather than enter into any measures likely to disturb the present union among the King's servants. By the death of Winnington, I was almost assured some expedient might be found to accommodate this matter ; but I learn that Mr. George Grenville, on knowing what was in agitation, has expressed great uneasiness that a junior Lord of the Admiralty should be raised to the Treasury over his head, and is supported by Pitt and all his connexion ; and there is, to my knowledge, at present a negotiation going forward, on this foundation, to promote both Legge and Grenville to the Treasury, and to leave poor Halifax in the lurch. If this measure is taken, I own it will appear to me great

ingratitude in the ministers to give way to Pitt, who only did not desert them because he had no refuge with any other set of people, in a point in competition with those who enabled them to withstand and bring Pitt to reason. Perhaps I may see this matter in a false light, and I may even be deceived in the state of the transaction, though I had it from what I think the most undoubted authority; yet I thought it my duty to give your Grace the earliest information of what I knew of this matter, that, if you apprehend there is a foundation to think the circumstances in this affair can be as I have stated them, you may be in time to prevent the ill effects that will inevitably attend this ill-judged measure.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

LORD BARRINGTON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, April 26.

My Lord,

Lord Sandwich and Mr. Legge went out of town this morning early, and, as they do not return till to-morrow, your Grace will have no letter from them this post. You will therefore willingly allow me the honour of informing you of whatever has happened since the express which was sent to your Grace last Thursday. I will begin with the safe arrival of the Ipswich at Plymouth, an account of

1746. — which came yesterday morning: she lost her rudder seven hundred leagues from land, and was navigated all that way by an invention of the carpenter's mate (of which he has sent us a drawing), which probably saved the Ipswich, and has induced us to make him carpenter of a forty gun ship. Last night arrived an express from Captain Powlet, who, in company with the Salisbury and Ruby, fell in with a French man of war, called the Ambuscade, of forty guns and 360 men. She did not surrender till her masts and rigging were torn to pieces, and had twenty-seven men killed or wounded. Mr. Powlet says she is the finest frigate he ever saw, and we have given directions to purchase her for the King's service. The officers on board will tell nothing of the Brest Fleet, which they left the 15th, the day before their ship was taken. Captain Edgcombe brought this account to Plymouth, where he was sent with the prize. The Defiance and Ruby are gone off Brest. I do not know whether Lord Sandwich informed your Grace that Mr. Martin was come into Plymouth, very much shattered, and many of his men sickly; he is preparing for sea with all possible expedition. We have ordered him to sail with what ships he has ready as soon as the Duke, Prince George, and Princess Louisa appear off Plymouth Sound, where they were last night ordered by express to go immediately. Mr. Martin will have ready, at all events, the Yarmouth, Captain, Lion, and Faulkland, and will take with him the Augusta and Maidstone, if they are clean. He will find at

Scilly the Hampton Court and Portland, and off Brest the Defiance and Ruby. We hope this squadron will be off Brest in a very few days, and intend to send the other ships that came in with Mr. Martin to join him as soon as they can put to sea. We have sent the Tavistock cutter to bring us intelligence of the Brest squadron, and have directed Mr. Martin, in case he finds it gone, to despatch a clean sloop to Louisbourg to give notice to Mr. Knowles. It is with great pleasure I find that this disposition is very much the same with that your Grace and Mr. Anson advise in your letter to Lord Sandwich, which came this morning, and which I opened by his direction. 1746.

I very much doubt whether any credit is to be given to the intelligence from Guernsey concerning the sailing of the Brest fleet, as it is not confirmed by any other ; there is not so much as a rumour in the city to that effect ; and the Dutch mail, which came in just now, brings advice that it was in the harbour 16 O. S., and does not fix any time for its sailing.

There are, as yet, no accounts from Scotland but what your Grace had by the express, nor any other news. I hope the waters will have a speedy as well as good effect on you and Mr. Anson, and that we shall see you in town as soon as is consistent with your health, but not a moment sooner, however necessary your presence may be here.

I have the honour, &c.

BARRINGTON.

1746. P. S. We must have accounts whether the Brest squadron be sailed before the expedition be near ready. An express is just come from the Duke, but I will not trouble you with the contents, as they will be in the Gazette ; only that the loss of the rebels is more than will be published : for what reason I cannot tell. It amounts to near 4000 men.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, April 28. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I desired Mr. Stone to send your Grace an account of the good news that came last Saturday from the Duke, upon which we have determined to send back the Hessians forthwith to Flanders. We had this day very loyal addresses to the King, and compliments to the Duke moved in both Houses : those in our House by the Duke of Marlborough and Lord Sandwich ; and I hope both Houses will think it reasonable to take this opportunity to make a proper settlement upon the Duke, to whose valour and conduct this country owes so much. Our debate* is appointed for Friday next. I am extremely sorry it happens so unluckily, that we cannot have the honour of your Grace's presence without great inconvenience, and I cannot presume

* On Lord Oxford's motion, vide p. 73.

to press or desire it. I have taken the liberty to send your Grace a proxy, if you should think proper to send one: I ordered Mr. Stone to acquaint you that we had prevailed with the King to make Mr. Pitt Paymaster. His Majesty was determined not to give him the War Office.* I heartily wish your Grace all possible benefit from the bath, 1746.

And am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

P. S. Lord Chesterfield is landed, and will be in town on Thursday.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD.

Bath, April 29. 1746. $\frac{1}{2}$ past six.

I received yours about two hours ago by the messenger, and, at the same time, one from the Duke of Newcastle, with a proxy enclosed in it for me to sign, and he does not seem to insist upon my coming up to town; so that if I hear nothing by to-morrow's post from Lord Sandwich, I do not design to come up. Believe me, my dearest love, I can have no so great pleasure as seeing you; but as my stay in town must be so very short, and it would greatly

* Conferred on Mr. Fox.

1746. — retard my coming back for good and all, I think it better for us both to stay here a fortnight longer, and see if I can get well in that time. The waters agree perfectly well with me, and the weather is very temperate. Adieu for one fortnight longer, and then judge how happy I shall be to see you and the dear children.

BEDFORD.

P. S. Lord John* brought your letter safe, and dined in a great company at Lady Bell's† to-day, and was as silly as ever. I return you thanks for your visit, and send you back your card, with my name upon it. Past ten at night.

P. S. the 2d. This not to be spoken of except to Lord Sandwich. The Duke of Newcastle tells me in his letter I received to-day, that the King had been prevailed on to make Mr. Pitt paymaster of the army. My words to the Duke of Newcastle in answer to this are these: *I am glad his Majesty has consented to appoint Mr. Pitt Paymaster, and hope now that something may be obtained for my friend Halifax, more agreeable to him than that he now has.*

* Lord John Sackville.

lady of the bed-chamber to the Princesses Emily and Caroline.

† Probably the lady here mentioned was Lady Isabella Finch,

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1746.

London, April 29.

My dear Lord,

We have not received any confirmation of the departure of the Brest fleet, so that I begin to hope our intelligence was false. Admiral Martin is, I imagine, sailed to-day, or yesterday, from Plymouth : the Princess Louisa, and the two ninety-gun ships, went from Spithead on Saturday ; so that I conclude they have joined the admiral before this time, who will then have eight ships of the line with him, exclusive of the five now cruising off Brest. The Namur is sailed from the Nore completely manned, and is, I believe, in all respects, as fine a ship as ever went to sea.

The Ambuscade will soon be ready to be commissioned, and I should be glad to receive your Grace's directions about her : the Navy Board have likewise purchased the Duke de Chartres privateer, taken some time ago by the Edinburgh (which we have named the Inverness); she will be a twenty-gun ship, and if you will name a commander to her, as likewise in the vacancies of the sloops, &c. occasioned by these promotions, it will forward the service to have the commissions made out immediately. Captain O'Brian, who performed the signal service of taking the Hazard sloop, is expected every hour at the Nore, and perhaps your Grace may think the command of the Ambuscade a proper reward for his gallant and prudent behaviour on

1746. that important occasion ; the Ambuscade is so fine a ship, that she ought to be commanded by a very alert officer. Mr. Martin's lieutenant (Sisson) is, I believe, also in some measure upon our hands for a sloop, and is a very brisk man, as I am informed, though I have not the least personal knowledge of him. When I receive your directions I will order the several commissions, and send the officers directly down to their ships, that we may lose no time in getting as many cruizers to sea this summer as possibly we can.* * * *

The promotions, in consequence of Mr. Winnington's death †, are not, I believe, finally determined, though I understand the principal ones are. Pitt is to be Paymaster, Yonge to succeed Pitt, and Fox Secretary at War : who is to come into the Treasury in Fox's room remains still doubtful, as I apprehend there are some clogs in Grenville's way ; but I suppose I am troubling your Grace on a subject in which you are much better informed than I can possibly be. I have had, both to-day and yesterday, much discourse with the Duke of Newcastle on Lord Halifax's affair. I cannot help owning myself very solicitous that matters should be accommodated to his satisfaction, as his being disgusted will not

* The part omitted relates to the promotion of a junior officer.

† Paymaster of the forces. An account of his death is given by Horace Walpole in his letters to Sir H. Mann ; who says of him

that "he had a quickness of wit most peculiar to himself, and for his public talents, he has left nobody equal to him, as before nobody was superior to my father." — *Letters*, vol. ii. p. 118.

only end in his own resignation, but will inevitably have the same effect on Lord Gower, who thinks his honour so much concerned in this transaction, that I believe he has finally told both the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pelham that he is determined to quit if Lord Halifax is not made easy. I shall see the Duke of Newcastle again to-morrow, and will continue to act the part I have hitherto done, (which I hope your Grace will approve of)—to soften Lord Halifax as much as I am able, and to persuade the Duke of Newcastle to think of some means or other to accommodate matters; which I hope he will be able to do, for I foresee very ill consequences attending a rupture of this sort at a time when so little is wanting to effect a complete union among us. If it shall happen in the end that I can have been of the least use in making up this breach (which, without some interposition of this sort, will inevitably be made), it will give me the sincerest satisfaction, as I am thoroughly convinced that I mean well in it; and I assure your Grace nothing will add so much to that satisfaction as the knowing that I have your Grace's approbation; which, ever since I have had the honour of your friendship, it has been my constant study to deserve.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

My best compliments attend Mr. Anson.

1746.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, May 3. 1746.

My dear Lord,

Some hope I have entertained of seeing your Grace here (till after I had sealed my letter of last post to Mr. Anson, when I was informed you certainly would not come) has prevented my attacking you sooner in this shape. As your stay at Bath is, I take it for granted, and hope, determined to some weeks longer, I don't propose to give you any quarter during the rest of your campaign. Those capital occasions of strife called *places*, which, next to that which produced the Trojan war, are, of all others, the most apt to set mortal men at variance, are, I think, now pretty happily adjusted. The grand obstacle with which you were acquainted before you left us, though not entirely removed, is in great measure abated, and the party for the present appeased in some degree, which I entirely attribute to the honesty and good sense of his friend, Lord Sandwich. He has, at least, prevented any sudden effort of passion : ways of accommodation will, I hope, be soon found out to turn that acquiescence into satisfaction ; and in the meanwhile the succession will take place in the manner which, I fancy, you have heard : but, for fear it should be otherwise, I will put down. Pitt, Paymaster ; Sir W. Yonge, Vice-treasurer of Ireland ; Fox, Secretary at War ; Cambel of Pembrokehire*, and your

* One of the Lords of the Treasury under Sir Robert Walpole.

Grace's most humble servant, Treasury. The former of these two last appointments has given some uneasiness to a friend and fellow-labourer of ours.* 1746.

But I believe, upon having it explained to him, that the great and sudden rise of Mr. Pitt was a thing to be softened and made palatable to the old corps by favours conferred at the same time upon them, he is willing to contribute, out of his own ambition, to his friend's ease and security. His friendship to me has prevented his stirring up a competition to my prejudice, though it might make him wish we were companions in the translation; and though I do not say I am by any means a better soldier, I say I am an older soldier, and, to my misfortune, an older man. The whole and every part of this arrangement will, I imagine, take effect by the latter end of next week, or the beginning of the week after, unless your Grace should have any particular commands that should require my longer continuance here; and, in that case, I will certainly keep all fast till you make me the signal to unmoor. I should be very unhappy if I looked upon this removal, how much soever to my interest, in the light of a separation from your Grace, or even from the office. I hope, therefore, I shall be allowed to look

* Probably Mr. Granville, who was solicitous of being transferred to the Treasury, which happening at the same time as Mr. Pitt's promotion, would have been far from "palatable to the old corps."

Horace Walpole, in a letter to Mann, says, "We have got

Admiral Vernon's head on our signs, and we are going to have Mr. Pitt at the head of our affairs. Do you remember the physician in Molière, who wishes the man dead, that he may have the greatest honour from recovering him?"—*Correspondence*, vol. ii. p. 121.

1746. upon myself as a kind of missionary detached from you to preach naval doctrines at the Board of Treasury, and to make the intercourse as open and compendious as possible between the two offices: permit me to keep a key of the Admiralty garden after my demise as an admiral. I promise to make no vain or indecent use of it, and never to let in the profane vulgar to mix and converse with the river gods at the end of the terrace, whose trunks and beards I respect too much to expose them to common and unholy eyes.

The post of to-day has brought no sort of news, nor have we yet received a word more of intelligence concerning the Brest squadron. The evidence from the Crown against Lestoc is closed, and on Monday next he will begin his defence, which, I believe, will be very short, as the whole seems entirely unnecessary. I am told that, amongst the evidences of last week, a person was produced to give his opinion as to the conduct of the vice-admiral in the day of battle, how far it was reconcilable to the character of a seaman and an officer, who, upon examination, proved to be Captain Powlet's steward. I hope and believe the court will come to some resolutions with regard to their future proceedings, which may either restrict the number of evidences, or give a determined time for receiving them, and not leave it in the power of Mr. Matthews to keep the court sitting all summer, to the great damage of the public as well as of the judges.* I received a letter from your

* "After a tedious and expensive fulfilling the expectations of the inquiry, the result was far from public. Matthews was declared

brother waterman this morning, which I will answer next post. In the meanwhile I beg my compliments to him, 1746.

And am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUCHESS OF
BEDFORD.

Bath, May 4. 1746.

I did not write to you last night, being obliged to write to Mr. Butcher, and some other letters. I have nothing particular to say, but that the waters agree with me perfectly well, and that I lead the most regular life that can be, and do not drink above two or three glasses of wine in a day. My feet are not yet got strong enough to bear a great deal of walking on these hard hot pavements, but I think they begin to mend a little. I ride out on Spot (who is very well) almost every day on the Downs, which is a better exercise for me than walking. I think my time of staying here is almost half out; and if the weather continues fine, I shall be very happy if you care to meet me on my return at Woburn, where I hope to get a week before I go to town. I leave it quite to you whether you will carry the children

incapable of serving his Majesty ably acquitted."—*Coxe, Pelham*
in the navy; Lestock was honour- *Administration*, vol. i. p. 225.

1746. and family down at that time, only must insist upon meeting Lord Tavistock with you. Now the rebellion is over, I hope to get some ease this summer at Woburn. I am sure that will do me more good in my health than any thing else I could do put together. Neither you nor Lord Sandwich mention any thing in your letters about the rising of the parliament: I want to know what they will do with these rebel peers that are prisoners in Scotland. Surely the parliament should be kept sitting for their trials before the House of Lords, and not postpone it to another year, by which time they will become objects of the compassion of the people, instead of being the objects of their resentment, and consequently in some measure take off the terror their punishment would otherwise create. Besides, I hope some good laws will be passed this session, whilst the memory of this rebellion is recent, to curtail the power of the Highland lords, and restrain them from being so dangerous for the future. As for your coming down here, my love, I am entirely against it, both on account of my stay here, which I don't design shall be above ten or twelve days longer; and also on account of the heat of the weather, and the exceeding rough and bad roads from Newbury to this place, which indeed I think very dangerous for a post-chaise, besides being immensely fatiguing. Besides, I am so straitly lodged here (Mr. Ferguson's being taken up) that I must absolutely change my lodgings if you come. If you like my proposal of meeting me at Woburn, I will in a few posts let you know what day I propose being

there for certain, but I believe it will be about 1746.
Thursday se'nnight or Friday at the latest, the
16th instant. I am grown a great gamester at
whist, and play to win or lose 20*l.* or 30*l.* a day:
hitherto I am a winner. When I came here I did
not design to play at all, but without it there is no
possibility of knowing how to employ one's time,
especially as I do not care to walk much. I will
now send you a scrap of Bath news, which is, that
Sir William Stanhope is set out from hence this
morning for Buckinghamshire, in order to oppose
Dick Grenville, whom every body here believes is
to have a place, but what it is to be is not said. I
do entirely agree with you in your last letter, that
as the orator is so vastly well provided for, the
gentleman has a right to pacify his old friends, and
I hope he will do it; if he does not, and gives way
to the orator and his junto (who you may perceive
are not easily satisfied), his old friends will fly off
from him, and he will be undone. I am very well
pleased with what Lord S. has done, and believe
the moderation of his cousin is a good deal owing to
him, though I fear he is looked upon (but very un-
justly) by the brethren as the blower up of this
mischief. Pray send me word how the debate went in
our House, and whether the viceroy was arrived, and
what part he took in it. Lord Tavistock has never
wrote to me, though he promised me he would. I
fancy this Woburn expedition will get me a letter
from him: he is very good to wish me to come back.
Adieu, my dearest love: I long to see you. B.

1746.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, May 5. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I send your Grace by this night's post the orders sent three weeks ago to Mr. Medley, which I think makes it unnecessary to despatch an express to him, as your Grace's intention seems fully answered by those orders. Every thing else is done according to your direction; and I believe Admiral Martin is by this time got near his station, as I apprehend he sailed on Saturday morning. We have nothing further concerning the sailing of the Brest fleet, but a discovery by a letter intercepted in the Solebay man of war, that the squadron is victualled only to four months, which consideration, added to the number of land forces being no more than 2000, seems to point out to us that this embarkation is intended for some defensive scheme, rather than for an offensive one; but be it what it will, I am in great hopes Admiral Martin will be out time enough to stop their proceedings. There is one circumstance in the orders to Admiral Medley that I think very displeasing, which is, that they are to pass through Mr. Vilette's* hands with a discretionary power to him to send them on or not; but on considering it I do not think that any very great objection, as I am well assured the expedition against Corsica is not at all a favourite scheme with

* Minister at Turin.

the King of Sardinia ; Mr. Ossorio* himself the other day assured me it never was. 1746.

Commodore Mitchell has sent us an express this day, informing us, that from two or three ships he yesterday spoke with from Ostend (in one of which was a passenger just arrived from Antwerp), he had information of a battle in Flanders, greatly to the advantage of the Austrians ; that the French lost 6000 or 7000 men ; and that great numbers of wounded soldiers had been brought to Brussels and Bruges, with this farther particular, that the Austrians fought without the Dutch. I heartily wish this news may be true, but I doubt it : however, such as it is, I thought your Grace would be glad to have the earliest information of it.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

I hope Lord Halifax's affair is in a prosperous way. The Duke of Newcastle tells me, this morning, he does not doubt but that there will be some means found to make him easy.

* Minister from the King of Sardinia.

1746.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, May 7. 1746.

My dear Lord,

The enclosed we received this day, from which I think it is almost certain the Brest fleet is not sailed out of Europe ; their West India convoy is, indeed, got out, but I think that a very inferior consideration. Admiral Martin sailed from Plymouth on Saturday, and there are now actually at sea, under his command, the Duke, Prince George, Namur, Yarmouth, Captain, Princess Louisa, Defiance, Falkland, Ruby, Portland, Augusta, Maidstone, Salisbury, and Lyon ; and he will be, in a very few days, joined by the Windsor, Advice, Mermaid, Amazon, Mercury, and Tavistock sloop ; which force, I hope, will be judged sufficient to prevent any designs of the enemy from taking effect. I forgot in my former letters to acquaint your Grace that Captain Hill of the Hazard sloop, and his lieutenant, Michael Burgess, were both broke by the court-martial for giving up the sloop to the rebels.

Commodore Mitchell has had a farther confirmation of a battle, to the disadvantage of the French, by a vessel from Flushing ; but if it was true, surely we must have had an express long before this time.

Captain Legge, of the Lizard sloop, has shown himself worthy the commission your Grace has honoured him with, having, after a long chase, come

up with a French privateer, of 20 guns, who then brought to, and engaged him till she found she had enough of it, and made sail from him ; however, he stuck to her, and came up with her again, and thought he was sure of her : but the Frenchman cut away all his anchors, threw his guns overboard, and being greatly lightened by that means, with much difficulty escaped. 1746.

I hope Halifax's transaction is in a fair way of being accommodated ; which, I must own, will give me great satisfaction, as I foresaw very ill consequences attending a disagreement at this time.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, May 8. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I return your Grace a thousand thanks for your very kind letter, and shall take the first opportunity of putting my sailing orders in execution, though I question if the wind will offer till the week after next. We do not propose to pay the Duke with words only for having delivered us out of jeopardy : before the manner, the quantum, and all the forms relating to that more substantial acknowledgment can be fixed, and passed through the House, I fancy it will require a week or, perhaps,

1746. ten days ; and though I don't suppose much external opposition will be given to it from any quarter, yet I should not choose to be upon my passage while that affair is transacting, and so lose the pleasure of concurring in it. Northern faces look queer enough upon the occasion, even those who, I dare say, were far enough from wishing success to the rebellion, had still rather that so eminent a defeat had not happened in the very citadel and fastness of the country, and that the invincible broadsword and dirk had not been so totally discountenanced by the musket and bayonet. I wish, with all my heart, some plan may be contrived and executed that may sufficiently alter the military tenure and constitution of that country, to prevent rebellion effectually for the future ; without which, I am afraid, a fresh crop will spring up, once in 30 years at least ; and, perhaps, we may not always have so able a reaper to gather that harvest as the Duke. The obligations I have to your Grace for the favour you show to the name of Legge increase daily ; and I must now beg leave to return you my thanks for the lift you have been so kind as to give to Julian. He has had a very critical opportunity of justifying your Grace's partiality to him, in some degree, very lately ; and though it gives me the greatest pleasure to think that a great deal of that partiality may be owing to his name, I hope, for your Grace's sake, he will always show the world that you had better motives. We had an account yesterday of his having engaged a French privateer of superior force

for two hours and a half; she then bore away and fled for it. He chased her 15 hours, came so near as to make no doubt of taking her, when she cut away her anchors, threw her guns overboard, sawed her gunnels, and escaped. If the Lizard had had any legs he would certainly have taken her. 1746.

Sir Harry Liddel, I believe, has wrote to your Grace and Mr. Anson in behalf of Roddham, and I promised him to do the same: I believe the man is a very good officer, and I find all the North (short of Scotland), as well as Sir Harry, are extremely solicitous to get him made a commander. Lord Sandwich has sent your Grace extracts containing all the news of yesterday's letters; there is no mail yet arrived from Holland, but certainly what Mitchel says upon the news from that coast has something very extraordinary in it, and joined to one's wishes (for which I make considerable allowance), almost inclines one to faith. The news which Mr. Cleland tells me he sent to Mr. Anson, relating to the great success of Commodore Barnet, I find is most firmly believed in the city. The transports are all ready, some at the Nore, and the rest at Deptford, waiting only for a wind; as that is now come, I take it for granted they will soon be at Spithead. The two transports, which have since been taken up for the women will hardly be in time to sail with the rest; but I fancy your Grace will be of our opinion, that it is better they should follow after than delay the expedition on their account. If they could have been distributed a little, with their respective hus-

1746. bands, it would have been better ; and what is to be apprehended from so many ladies acting in their collective capacities, on board one or two ships, I can't say. For my own part, I rather think the evils will arise from difference of opinion than from unanimity. Dire will be the scratchings, dire the coif pullings, where so many are together, and those actually in transports : but none of these considerations should delay the expedition.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, May 12. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I send your Grace with this copy of the last intelligence received, which gives an account of a French man-of-war seen the 7th instant off Scilly. In Mr. Wolter's letter of yesterday, he says, that he is informed from Paris that Duc d'Ainville had orders to detach four ships of his squadron to fetch the young Pretender from Scotland ; and as the time of their sailing, and the number of ships (for I do not reckon the 20 gun ship and Snow as any thing), tallies so exactly, I think there is great probability this squadron is destined for the above-mentioned service.

To obstruct this operation, we have ordered the

Monmouth, Windsor, Advice, Mermaid, Chesterfield, and Lizard sloop (which are all ready), to proceed immediately off Scilly in quest of the French ships; and if they are gone from that station, and that we have intelligence of their going towards Scotland, we propose to send a cutter to order our squadron to follow them; which, I hope, will be able to give a very good account of them; at the same time Captain Harrison is authorised by his orders to follow them, without hearing from us, in case he has any account what course they have steered.

This post brought us a letter from Commodore Smith, enclosing one from Captain Jefferies of the Scarborough, who is cruising on the northernmost part of Scotland; which letter says, that a sloop from New England is put in there with an express from Governor Shirley to the Duke of Newcastle, which brings advice that one of our 20 gun ships, with a privateer in company, has taken the richest prize that has fallen into our hands this war; she is a Spanish register ship, and has above a million sterling registered on board; the lucky ship is not named, nor do I understand the express is come to town; but if the account is true, I suppose it must be one on the Carolina station.

There are two new sloops to be launched before the end of this month, and your Grace's commands shall be obeyed, by Lieutenant Roddams being appointed to the first of them.

I hope the last transports will be at the Nore this

1746. day. I assure your Grace there has been no neglect in us, but that we have wrote, scolded, and done every thing men could do to hasten them; but we have found it impracticable to get them down sooner, as the owners of the ships have been generally worse than their words.

As your Grace will leave Bath before another letter can reach you (unless we have something that deserves an express), I shall address my next to Woburn, where I hope you will arrive perfectly re-established in your health.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

LORD HALIFAX TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Audley Street, May 13. 1746.

My Lord,

As I have great reason to believe that the disposition shown of late towards accommodating me has been very much owing to the letter your Grace was so obliging as to write to the Duke of Newcastle in my favour, I must not any longer delay returning your Grace my best thanks; and indeed I should not have deferred them so long as I have, but that I have waited in expectation of the affair being brought to an issue.

I hope it very soon will be determined, for it is matter of great uneasiness to me to be the subject of so much trouble to my friends. I must beg leave

once more to express my sincere acknowledgment of your Grace's kindness to me, and to assure you that I am, with the highest regard and esteem, &c. &c. 1746.

DUNK HALIFAX.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, May 15. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I have received the honour of your Grace's letter of the 11th from Bath; and that you may not enjoy Woburn entirely free from all Admiralty molestation, I send you the enclosed letters from Commodore Smith (which you will be so good as to return), and a copy of one from Lord George Graham; though they contain no success, the parties concerned seem to have acquitted themselves very well. Noel (who has been greatly benefited by the rebuke you gave him) and his small companion fought lustily. Smith has been very alert in sending supplies where they were so requisite; and poor Lord George is much to be lamented that he wanted strength to make an immense fortune, and, considering the warmth of his complexion, much to be commended for not having thrown away the King's ships. We have ordered four ships from Plymouth to reinforce the Cape Clear station; and

1746. would to God they could have been there time enough for the Indiamen.

We have been under the utmost anxiety about the expedition, as well knowing how much you had it at heart. Delays will happen ; and you know how very difficult it is to be delivered of any expedition that is conceived in the river. However, the transports are now most undoubtedly all ready, and the first spirt of wind will certainly carry them all round to Portsmouth. I shall have the honour of remaining in your Grace's flock till after the holy-days. The hand kissing is not to be performed till then ; and though I don't attribute this delay to the grand obstacle which subsisted when you left town (because there will be another vacancy), yet I hope before that time every thing will be adjusted to the satisfaction of all parties. I take great delight in the contemplation of so promising a year for partridges, and can't help thinking what slaughter I shall commit just on the outside of Woburn Park wall.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, May 17. 1746.

My dear Lord,

Your Grace will receive by this post an account of what measures have been taken by the

Board, in consequence of the unparalleled insult offered to Admiral Mayne.* If some effectual satisfaction is not given, there is an end of our discipline ; and the ferment already raised among our sea officers is greater than you would easily imagine, and, if not timely appeased, will be productive of the worst consequences. If your Grace does not come to town on Monday, a letter by to-morrow night's post to the Duke of Newcastle, with your thoughts on this subject, would be of infinite use. 1746.

The transports (excepting six) are all sailed from the Nore three days ago, and I hope will be to-morrow in the Downs.

Lieut. Petticrew, who was lieutenant of the Blast under Captain Shuldham, and behaved with the utmost gallantry in that brave action, is arrived in town from Jamaica. Admiral Davers, though he applauded his courage and behaviour, gave him no hopes of preferment, but sent him home by the first opportunity, telling him he could do nothing for him. He has been twenty-five years in the service, and received seven wounds in that action, and looks really like a prize-fighter, being cut over the head in a most terrible manner ; Captain Shuldham besides gives him a very good character ; so that if your Grace will give us leave, we will commission him for a sloop, if a vacancy shall happen after

* Rear-Admiral Mayne, who was president of the court martial, for inquiring into the conduct of Admiral Lestock and others, had been served with a writ in an action of trespass, at the suit of Lieutenant George Fry of the marines.

1746. Lieut. Roddom is provided for, which I believe there will be an opportunity to do in a few days.

The letters from Mr. Burnaby Parker were directed to your Grace on his Majesty's service, which will, I hope, excuse the liberty I took in opening them.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, May 20. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

I was attending this morning three hours at the Duke of Newcastle's before he could be spoke with, and at last came away without being at all informed what was intended to be done with the new regiments. At a council last week it was resolved to break and dismiss them all immediately ; but they have since changed that resolution, and nothing will be done with them till your Grace comes to town, which I suppose will be before Monday next, as that is the day for electing a master of the Trinity House. Affairs of greater consequence will require your Grace's presence ; for it is the general opinion, that the Dutch will very soon be forced to accept a neutrality with France, which will probably be upon very hard conditions to them, and very disadvantageous to Britain. It is

hoped their present situation will oblige them to pursue measures more for their honour, as well as ours, than they have hitherto done. I delivered your Grace's petition to Mr. Corbett, who has sent orders to discharge the Plymouth man for an able seaman in lieu. The letter your Grace wrote to the Duke of Newcastle, about the arresting Admiral Mayne, was shown to the King, who agreed in opinion with your Grace, and has taken the thing up as warmly as you could wish, and directed him to write a letter to the Board, which has given us all great satisfaction, and, I hope, will put the sea service upon a better footing than it has hitherto been. The expedition has been delayed by the winds, so that your Grace will be here soon enough to determine whether it should proceed. Lord Sandwich went out of town this morning to Huntingdon for a week. The Duke of Newcastle promised that Stone should write to your Grace; but the apprehension that his great hurry of business should occasion his neglecting to do it, is the reason of my giving your Grace the trouble of this letter from, &c. &c.

G. ANSON.

1746.

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, May 20. 1746.

My Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter, and laid it before the King ; I laid before his Majesty, at the same time, a letter from the Lords of the Admiralty, complaining of the insult offered to Rear-Admiral Mayne ; and I have wrote to the Lords of the Admiralty, by his Majesty's order, to assure them of the King's approbation of what they have done, and that his Majesty highly disapproves the behaviour of Lieut. Fry, and has it under consideration how to prevent the like insults for the future. My letter was approved by Lord Vere, Admiral Anson, and Mr. Legge before it was sent. Mr. Anson acquainted me with your Grace's desire to be informed of any resolution that was taken relating to the new regiments. We have often talked about it, and at last we all seemed to resolve that they should be immediately discharged, and that endeavours should be used to engage as many of the private men as possible to list in the old regiments, and that, I think, is the method most generally approved of ; but the affairs abroad are in such a critical situation, Marshal Balledane, on the one hand, being under the greatest apprehension of being overpowered by the French, and there being, on the other, too much reason to apprehend, that the States may immediately determine to make a separate peace, that it has been thought proper to

suspend, for a few days at least, taking any resolution for breaking these new regiments, as it is thought that any step of that kind at this instant might discourage the Dutch, and determine them to take separate measures. There are also other points of the highest consequence at present under consideration, relating not only to the conditions, but the manner in which a peace may probably be now concluded. I heartily wish we could be so happy as to have your Grace's assistance now in town ; it was never more wanted, and I believe there never was a time when it was more difficult to determine what to advise. For my own part, I have given my opinion, to the best of my understanding, and heartily wish it was possible for us to be all of one opinion. 1746.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, May 20. 1746.

My dear Lord,

General Sinclair kissed hands to-day, and sets out for Portsmouth to-morrow ; and if the wind stands, as it seems much inclined to do, I hope, in a very few days, our expedition will get fairly out of Channel.

We prosecute the affair of Lieutenant Fry with

1746. vigour, and I verily think shall be able to convert it, at last, to the benefit and security of our discipline. It is received at Kensington as we could wish, as your Grace will perceive by the copy of a letter I send you enclosed, which came to us this morning from the Duke of Newcastle. I think the court-martial will have great reason to be satisfied with the contents of it; and I hope when they meet on Thursday next will proceed to despatch the business they have in hand, and not show their resentment to Fry by delays, which can tend to nothing but the ruin of themselves. Anson tells me I wrote certain nonsense, or sense so mysterious, that it was tantamount, in one of my last epistles to your Grace. This might very well happen from so eminent a professor of the noble science of nonsense as your humble servant; but however I might express myself, I meant nothing more by the second vacancy I talked of, than that which will be occasioned by the removal of Fox. This succession, I imagine, will take place on Monday next, and then my election will be over time enough to enable me to give the best assistance in my power towards the bill for ascertaining the jurisdiction of courts martial; but if my removal should occasion any doubt as to my being able to give testimony in person to the privileges of the Admiralty, I shall beg it may be delayed till that matter is decided. I should wish, if your Grace approves, that the bill may be so drawn as rather to declare the powers we certainly have, and the right of judicature now

in being, than that it should seem to enact any new ones: and, perhaps, this might not be a bad opportunity to notify to the world that marines, and all persons serving on board men-of-war, are liable to the sentence of sea courts' martials; which, though a point at present not disputed, is in some degree unknown, and even doubted; and though, in fact, there are not two concurrent judicatures on board a man-of-war, there are so in opinion, and, indeed, in effect; for marines broke by a sea court-martial are commonly restored by their own colonels, as if nothing had happened. I beg my best compliments to the Duchess, and am sorry to hear the partridges have the insolence to breed in the very garden, and under the parlour window; this is such a nuisance, that the parties behaving in so indecent a manner ought certainly to be treated as vermin.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE LORDS COM-
MISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY.

Whitehall, May 20. 1746.

My Lords,

I have received your Lordships' letter of the 16th instant, with the papers enclosed relating to the writ served on Rear-Admiral Mayne, (who presides at the court-martial held at Deptford, for inquiring

1746. into the conduct of Mr. Lestock and others,) and the resolutions taken by the court-martial thereupon, and have laid them before the King.

His Majesty expressed great displeasure at this insult offered to the court-martial, by which the military discipline of the navy is so much affected; and the King highly disapproves the behaviour of Lieutenant Fry on this occasion. His Majesty has it under consideration, what steps may be advisable to be taken upon this incident; and in the meantime, his Majesty would have your Lordships acquaint the members of the court-martial, that they may depend upon his Majesty's most gracious protection for procuring to them a sufficient satisfaction for the late indignity offered them, and that proper methods will be taken for preventing any thing of the like nature for the future.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

DUCHESS OF BRIDGEWATER TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

May 26. 1746.

Dear Brother,

It is with the utmost reluctance that I can prevail upon myself to trouble you with this application, but as Mr. Lyttelton's success in life depends entirely upon the determination of the point now in question, I flatter myself you will not only forgive

this freedom, but with your accustomed goodness 1746.
comply with my earnest request and grant him
your assistance.

Mr. Lyttelton has applied to the ministry, but has not weight enough of himself to get his petition supported by them. May I hope that your affection for me may prevail upon you to present the enclosed to the King, or to speak to him upon the subject. He has some reason to flatter himself that a less powerful application will obtain him this justice from the degree of favour his Majesty honours him with; or if his Majesty should object to the giving him rank as adjutant-general, may you not ask it as colonel-commandant of your regiment, as Lord Sandwich is to the Duke of Montague. Do not think I mean to load your interest with the care of his preferment; but it goes to my heart to see other young officers obtain through favour what, was he not your brother-in-law, he has so just a right to, and which, if refused to him, will render it impossible for him to continue in the army.

If you choose to converse with Mr. Lyttelton upon this subject, he will think himself happy to explain his pretensions more fully to you; I am very glad to hear you have found benefit from the bath, and am, &c. &c.

R. BRIDGEWATER.*

* Lady Rachel Russell, eldest sister of the Duke of Bedford, widow of Scrope Egerton, Duke of Bridgewater; married a second time, to Colonel Sir Richard Lyttelton, K. B., brother to George Lord Lyttelton.

1746.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUCHESS OF
BRIDGEWATER.

London, May 28. 1746.

Dear Sister,

I have been so much hurried with business ever since my coming to town that I have not been able to find an opportunity of calling upon you, nor, till now, of writing to you since the receipt of your letter.

You must be very sensible that, upon your account, I shall be very desirous to serve Colonel Lyttleton, as far as lies in my power, in any thing that can be reasonably expected from me, but must desire to be excused from presenting the memorial of any particular person to the King, which the rest of the Lords, joined in the administration with me, have thought improper to be done at this juncture.

I have also a stronger objection to asking of his Majesty the rank of colonel for Mr. Lyttleton as colonel commandant of my regiment, as in case it should be thought proper to continue the new regiments, (which, I believe, will not be the case,) I should put myself at the head of the regiment, and continue with them all the time they were in actual service.

All I can promise is, to use my good offices to obtain for Colonel Lyttleton the rank he shall have a right to expect; and shall be glad of every opportunity of convincing you with how great truth

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO COLONEL CONWAY.

1746.

London, May 28. 1746.

Dear Sir,

I received the favour of yours of the 13th instant but the day before yesterday, and am very sorry it is not consistent with my way of thinking to agree to the exchange proposed, as my inclinations to oblige you, as well as my duty to H.R.H. by whose direction I apprehend this proposal is made to me, would have prompted me to have given my consent to any thing, however disagreeable to me, that I thought consistent with my own honour, or the good of his Majesty's service.

But as the thing appears to me, as stated in your letter, I think my consenting to this exchange would be inconsistent with both, as the admitting this gentleman into my regiment would not only be using my own officers very ill, in bringing amongst them one, who by his bad behaviour had forfeited the good opinion of his brother officers in the corps he now belongs to, but would also have a very bad appearance, as it would be the means of screening an officer from that punishment which H. R. H.'s justice and regard to discipline will see punctually put in execution on any officers that have deserved it, in those corps which have the happiness to be under his immediate command.

Besides I must own I have another very strong objection to this, which is, that I should be very unwilling at the time of our expiration, (which I

1746. believe is now very near,) to appoint any new officers to my regiment, which (were I to agree to this proposal) would not only increase the number of subalterns who have rank, but also load the half-pay with one more officer, who I fear by the account you have given me of him does not seem to have any further pretence to it than what arises from the compassion one feels from his low circumstances.

I should have been glad to have been accessary to any good that could have happened to Mr. Robinson, as I have very great reason to be pleased with him, but I apprehend his being appointed by his Majesty upon my recommendation a lieutenant in my regiment must have prevented his getting into your regiment upon this vacancy. However, I am glad he has been mentioned to H. R. H. in so favourable a light by so powerful an intercessor as Lord Albemarle, and hope he may have better luck another time. Give me leave, dear sir, to congratulate you upon your promotion, and to assure you with how great truth

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, May (June) 14. 1746.

My dear Lord,

The last accounts from Mr. Walters give us to understand, that the French fleet at Rochefort remained in the road the 27th of last month,

and as the winds have been since, it is almost impossible they could have sailed before the 10th instant, so that there is great reason to hope Admiral Martin will be time enough to intercept them. General Sinclair's transports were all at Spithead two days ago, and as the wind continues fair, imagine they will sail to-day or to-morrow. Easterly winds can bring us no news from what I think the present scene of action, so have nothing from that quarter to impart to your Grace, but hope soon to be able to send you some news of consequence, as I must own I think there is great possibility of an action at sea.

1746.

* * * * *

I fear these easterly winds will have made your voyage unpleasant, but know you are too good a seaman to be uneasy at any disappointment of this sort.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, June 17. 1746.

My dear Lord,

Your Grace has been wind bound*, and I have in consequence been ink bound ; as I take for

* " Another good thing she at Yarmouth,—' Lord ! he will (Lady Townsend) said to the hate Norfolk as much as I do." Duchess of Bedford, who told — *Walpole's Letters*, June 24. her the Duke was wind-bound 1746.

1746. granted that you are now arrived at Berwick, I beg leave to communicate to you such matters as pass in this southern part of the world, and may be worth your knowing.

Imprimis, Wasnaar has to-day notified to the Duke of Newcastle the news of a complete victory gained by the Austrians over the French and Spaniards near Placentia. I am not perfectly acquainted with particulars. But in the manner I have heard it, the affair passed thus :—the French and Spaniards attacked the Austrians in their camp, at nine o'clock at night, the action lasted bloody and obstinate till nine the next morning, when the French and Spaniards were totally defeated. The numbers slain on the part of the conquered are not exactly known, but the conquerors had 3000 killed and wounded. In revenge they have taken 3000 prisoners, amongst which are three general officers, and all the cannon, baggage, &c.; and to be sure if the proportion of the slain be taken from this scale it must be very great.

The trial of Mathews came on yesterday, but has received some little check, and is adjourned till Thursday next, by objections, (and very frivolous they are,) which Admiral Mathews has made to individuals of the court-martial. He has objected to Ned, Hamilton, and Rentone, as commanding ships which are not within the district of the Admiral's command, who is president of the court-martial. To this objection a very full and ample answer will be given; and though I own for my

brother's sake (as you know) I should not be sorry that this objection could prevail, provided it could be consistently with the dignity of the board, yet I would not wish it upon other terms, and I think it imports us much to maintain the validity of our court, which if impeached in this respect, would effectually overturn the legality of the judgments they have already given. 1746.

Sinclair sailed from Spithead two days ago, but came to an anchor at St. Helen's, where he now remains; and if there be a fault in the wind that has given your Grace your passage, it is the opposition it gives to our C. Breton expedition—not to say that it may endanger the lives of the partridges by engendering rain.

By intelligence we have received from Walters, the Brest fleet were at Rochefort upon the 9th of this month (our style), so that I think there can be no doubt of Martin's overtaking them. We have taken three small privateers; two were taken by the *Saltash*, and one by the *Carlisle frigate now acting under my command in his Majesty's service*. Vide Vernon.

I am not yet removed to the Treasury, but still remain in the straddling condition in which your Grace left me, with one leg at sea, and the other at land; but in all attitudes and all conditions am with much gratitude and affection,

My dear Lord,

Yours, &c.

H. LEGGE.

1746.

COLONEL CONWAY TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Fort Augustus, June 18. 1746.

My Lord,

I am extremely sorry your Grace should think the application I made to you so very improper, as to be contrary to the good of the service and your own honour to comply with; but of making such a one knowingly, at least, I hope you will acquit me, and impute it to my ignorance if it was of that nature. But I fancy that your Grace misapprehended me, perhaps from my fault in stating the case ill, to see it in so grave a light, or perhaps from what I said you imagined, as is not uncommon in such cases, that I left a good deal unsaid of the young man's character in order to soften the matter. However, as the thing is over, I wo'n't trouble you with any detail of the circumstances, only just say, in justification of myself and, in some measure, of both H. R. H. and Lord Albemarle, who, by their consent, seem involved in the imputation, that the breaking of the regiment was looked upon by us all here as a thing absolutely certain, so much that, as your Grace will find, officers were sent from each regiment with us to enlist such as were willing to serve of the several new regiments on their dissolution, so that will clear me, I hope, from an intention of troubling your Grace, or burdening your regiment with an improper person: as to the load that would thereby have fallen on the half-pay list; I am not, indeed, so cleverly clear, as that being the only

view with which the thing was asked, except, that as 1746.
the case then stood, we thought it might have been
of advantage to Mr. Robinson to get him immedi-
ately into a corps upon the establishment; but the
lad's crime not being of a nature to deserve that he
should be punished in form, nor the representation
of the officers so strong as to require the bringing
him to any trial, this was thought of as a method
to save him from ruin, and at the same time take
him away from a regiment, where it was probable
he could not continue either to his own or the
other officers' satisfaction; and as a proof of all this,
the officers have since been so sensible that there
was rather too much rigour than lenity in what
was determined about him, that they have unani-
mously applied to the Duke that the whole affair
might be forgot, and the young man continued
in the regiment, which he has had the goodness to
consent to. I beg pardon for troubling your
Grace with so tedious an account of the affair, and
that may appear unnecessary as it is now quite over;
but in justice both to H. R. H. and Lord Albe-
marle, and that I might endeavour not to forfeit
your Grace's opinion, which I am studious to
deserve, I could not help detaining you thus long.
I have great pleasure in learning your regiment
is amongst those not to be broken, as I fancy it
may be agreeable to you.

For as, my Lord, we are a dull race of mortals
here at present, and every thing in such tranquillity
about us, that I can't pick up any thing amongst

1746. our transactions, or those of our neighbours, worth sending to you, except the taking old Lovat happens to be news to your Grace. He had been followed, I think, some time by a party from on board Captain Ferguson, who, taking one of his servants, or followers, flogged him into a confession where he had hid himself; and after some search through a wood, he was found, in imitation of his Royal Master's predecessor, hid in a tree, and was three days ago brought to this place in a litter, for he is both old and infirm. I beg my compliments to the Duchess,

And I am, &c.

H. CONWAY.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Claremont, July 5. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I have the honour of your Grace's letter, and will certainly recommend nobody to the King till I have the honour to see your Grace, and acquaint you with all the applications that are made for the government of Jersey upon the prospect of Governor Morris's death. My Lord Chancellor solicits strongly for Governor Belcher, who was removed from New England, and Lieutenant Governor Clark of New York, who has done great service to the government, and puts in very strongly for some

recompense for his services, has now descried this 1746.
 government of New Jersey. This is the present
 state of the case ; but if your Grace thinks that
 Lord Hawley should have it, as he has been so long
 disappointed, I shall certainly obey your com-
 mands, and recommend him to the King. I shall
 be sure to despatch General St. Clair as soon as I
 come to town, and hope no time will be lost by my
 absence. I congratulate your Grace upon the
 taking the rich Spanish prize,

And am, with great respect, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

P. S. I forgot to acquaint your Grace that
 Admiral Warren, some time ago, put in for this
 government of Jersey.

MR. WOLFE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Greenwich, July 7. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

When I had the honour of waiting on your
 Grace at the Admiralty, the Thursday before
 you went to the North, your Grace was pleased to
 tell me that you had spoken to Mr. Pelham in rela-
 tion to a memorial I gave your Grace some time
 before that, and that he told your Grace I was on
 the staff: I immediately answered your Grace, that
 I was surprised Mr. Pelham should say so, for I was

1746. not on the staff as a general officer, nor was I on any establishment as inspector of marines. It is on account of this last affair that I give your Grace the trouble of this letter. What I beg of your Grace is, that if I am thought of any consequence in this employment of inspector, you will get me put on a fixed establishment, that I may be at some certainty in receiving the pay his Majesty has been pleased to order me. At that time I was only a colonel, and he ordered me to have the pay of a brigadier. I am now a major-general, and don't demand for myself more pay than what his Majesty was pleased to say I should have; but as an aide-de-camp is a person necessary to a general officer, when employed, I desire I may have one on the establishment with me. I also beg the favour of your Grace to use your interest to get me some arrears of pay due to me, I having not received any since last Christmas was two years. If what I now ask in relation to an establishment should not be granted, I then renew my request to your Grace, and the rest of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, which I made some time ago, that you will be pleased to move his Majesty for leave to resign this employment as inspector; for to continue in it upon the footing I am at present, and for some time past, occasions my being in a worse situation than any man who has the honour of having a regiment in his Majesty's service.

I am, &c.

E. WOLFE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. VILLIERS.

1746.

London, July 13. 1746.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 9th April last N. S. I fear has continued as yet unanswered by me, through the great hurry of business I have been in, and the two long journeys I have been forced to undertake since my receipt of it; the one to Bath, upon account of my own health, the other to my regiment at Berwick-upon-Tweed, on his Majesty's service. But though it has been unanswered, I can assure you it has not been forgot; and I did immediately upon the receipt of it, before my setting out for Bath, call upon Lord Harrington, to talk with him upon the subject of it. I did throw out to him, chiefly as from myself, what you mentioned in your letter of the acknowledgments and recompenses you had received from all the contracting powers in the treaty of Dresden, except your own court, whose not showing their approbation of your conduct in that affair, by some exterior mark of their favour, and more visible to the eyes of the world, than the approbation the King has doubtless expressed of your conduct through the channel of the Secretary of State, might, I did suggest to his Lordship, induce the court where you now resided, to think you was not so well, either with his Majesty and those in the administration, as you deserved to be, and, I verily believed, you was. Lord Harrington's answer to me was, that he was confident both his

1746. Majesty, and those concerned in the administration, were thoroughly satisfied with your conduct, ever since you have been employed in the King's service, and especially with this last treaty concluded between the kings of Poland and Prussia ; but he added, at the same time, that it was an absolute unprecedented thing for our court to make (after the custom of the German courts) any pecuniary acknowledgments to our own ministers upon the conclusion of any treaty through their means, how beneficial soever that treaty might be to the public ; but threw out at the same time that a riband, or some such mark of distinction, was the usual and proper method taken by our court to distinguish such ministers in foreign courts who had merited the King's favour by any signal service. Though you had not, in your letter to me, mentioned your dislike of any such gewgaw distinction, I should have thought myself enough acquainted with your way of thinking to have declared my sentiments upon that subject to Lord Harrington ; and with regard to the other more real and honourable distinction you mention in your letter, viz. a peerage*, I know the way of the King's thinking so well upon that subject, and the many prior engagements that are already entered into, that I did not think it proper to touch upon that point: what I should most wish, both for your own sake and your friends', would be, when his Majesty's service will permit it,

* Mr. Villiers was created after having held the missions of eventually Earl of Clarendon, Dresden, Vienna, and Berlin.

to see you at home, to put in your pretensions for some comfortable place here, in reward for your services abroad ; and I can assure you that I shall be always ready to do whatever may depend on me to serve you. But I am afraid, during this uncertain state of affairs abroad, your presence where you now are cannot be dispensed with ; and I flatter myself that in the station you now are, you may have opportunities of doing both the public and yourself more material services than you could at present at home. 1746.

I come now to mention a request Lord Gower has desired me to make you, both in his name and mine, and that is with regard to Dick Leveson. My Lord, upon finding him very averse to the profession of the law, has, upon consideration and our entreaties, given up the design of forcing him into a profession he dislikes, and in which, consequently, he must have miscarried ; and I wish my opinion could have prevailed so far with my Lord, as to have induced him to have given him leave to have taken a captain's commission in my regiment when it was first raised, a profession to which he was naturally inclined, and in which, consequently (knowing the good parts he has), I think he would have succeeded. But Lord Gower's old dislike to an army life got the better of all these reasonings, and there is now (considering his age) no other system of life for him to pursue, but an idle one, or *le metier d'un ministre aux cours etrangeres*, which, though I look upon it as a kind of banishment, is

1746. yet much preferable to the former. As this is the case, you must not be surprised Lord Gower thought of you first as the man he would wish to give his son the first rudiments of his trade ; and he hopes, and so do I most sincerely too, that you will not be averse to his coming to you for six months or thereabouts, in order to be a little instructed by you in the method of business, and to form himself under you in the trade he has undertaken. I can assure you, you will find him a lad of extreme good parts and good nature, an agreeable companion, and no more addicted to idleness or pleasure than all people of spirit of his age usually are. Lord Gower desires to know from you, by my means, your sentiments upon this subject, and desires me to inform you, that he means to put you to no expense, and to as little trouble as can possibly be, upon his son's account ; and if you approve of it, he proposes to send Mr. Leveson as soon as may be to Berlin, that no time may be lost, which I think he is in the right in, considering Dick's age. If this proposal should not be disagreeable to you, I shall be very happy, as no one is more solicitous of Dick's welfare than myself, and as I am confident there is no one more capable of being of service to him than you.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1746.

Admiralty Office, July 17. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

I send your Grace a copy of a letter sent to the office yesterday from the Duke of Newcastle. I did not think it of much consequence till I waited upon the King this morning about the twelve condemned seamen, which his Majesty was pleased to show mercy to ; who asked me if he might depend upon there being a sufficient naval force left for the defence of his kingdoms, supposing the Brest and Ferrol fleets should have joined, and the American expedition sailed. I assured his Majesty that when our ships were collected we had an equal force to their joint fleet, and by unmanning our frigates we could be superior to them. I submit it to your Grace whether we should not call in more of our ships, for their men must grow very sickly, and most of the ships have not been in a dock since February, and will take some time to refit ; I mean both Mr. Boscawen's and Lord George Graham's squadrons. We have not the least news by the two last posts. Mr. Martin's ships are not yet got to Portsmouth, so that I am afraid they will lose this spring. Your Grace knows that the object for keeping Boscawen's squadron out was the expectation of the St. Domingo fleet, which we had intelligence from Admiral Davers would sail about the 20th of May, O. S. I hope your Grace finds it cooler at Woburn than we do here, for it is sultry. Admiral

1746. Lestock's instructions are finished, and will be delivered to him to-morrow: he insists much upon having Cockburn his captain, and says your Grace gave him encouragement to hope it would be done. It is impossible to find a vacancy for Captain Phillpot of the Princess, so that we must depend on a future vacancy.

I am, &c.

G. ANSON.

MR. FOX TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

War Office, July 19. 1746.

My Lord,

His Majesty has thought fit to order the regiment of foot under your Grace's command to be disbanded upon their arrival at Bedford; but as the King considers the zeal and affection expressed for his person and government in your Grace's offer to raise this regiment in the late important time of national danger, and the cheerfulness and alacrity with which it was raised, he cannot part with it without expressing his particular satisfaction therein. I am therefore, by his Majesty's command, and in his name, to thank your Grace and your officers for the seasonable and distinguished marks you have given of your fidelity and attachment to his Majesty on this occasion.

I am likewise commanded by his Majesty to

desire your Grace and the rest of your officers to
 thank the private men in his name for their services, 1746.
 before they are dismissed, in order that there may
 be no one person in your regiment unacquainted
 with the sense his Majesty has of their zeal and
 loyal behaviour in his service.

And as it would be at this time of the greatest
 utility to have the remaining part of the army as
 complete as possible, I am further commanded to
 desire your Grace, and the other officers of your
 regiment, to use your best endeavours to engage
 as many as may be of your men who shall be willing
 and fit to enlist themselves in the old regiments
 (from which officers will be ordered for that pur-
 pose to repair to the quarters in which they shall
 be disbanded), and thereby show that the same
 zeal continues for their king and country which
 they have hitherto so laudably exerted in defence
 of both.

I am, &c.

H. Fox.

MR. PITT TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Lincomb, July 19. 1746.

My Lord,

I am extremely sorry the liberty I took
 should have put your Grace to the trouble of a
 letter in answer. I did not know your Grace had
 laid down so strictly the rule of seniority in the

1746. promotion of lieutenants, or I should not have presumed to trouble you with a request upon that subject. Give me leave to rejoice with your Grace, which I do most heartily, upon this great event, the King of Spain's death. * I hope it will be so improved as to prove a happy one in the consequence. I think it can't fail of doing so, if we draw from it facility and resolution to pursue firmly those great and practicable views in America, which, as far as they have gone or are to go, we owe to your Grace alone. You are alone, however, but in one place, for the nation is certainly with you ; with such a second, your Grace can surmount all obstacles.

I have, &c.

W. PITT.

MR. VILLIERS TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berlin, August 6. N. S. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I was yesterday honoured with your Grace's most affectionate letter of the 13th inst. O. S. Such an assurance of your Grace's unalterable friendship and confidence gives me the greatest satisfaction, and shall ever be acknowledged with the most cordial gratitude. I can't express all I feel on your late intercession with Lord Harrington, and

* Philip V.

for the opinion your Grace tacitly and justly supposed I had of mere ornamental rewards: I believe I might have been long since decorated with a riband, had I had any ambition in appearing to vulgar or weak people greater than I was; neither did I mean to ask for a pecuniary recompence, otherwise than by a place or an augmentation of my appointment. I am not unhappy in having yet obtained neither, having received his Majesty's most gracious permission to return home, which, though only for a time, may, I am afraid, deprive me of the great satisfaction I should have in accepting your Grace's proposal with respect to Mr. Leveson, and in giving immediate proof of my regard for Lord Gower and his family. The Duchess of Bedford may possibly recollect the readiness I showed when she was pleased to intimate to me at Woburn the taking of Mr. Leveson abroad. It would have been fortunate had he then pursued his inclination, as he would now have seen more business than may ever again come to my share, as also several princes, nations, and armies; but what I have seen I shall with great pleasure communicate, and shall be extremely happy if my labours can be useful to a person of worth, recommended by those I esteem the most. I can't fix my departure till I have an answer to a despatch I send with this; and Lord Harrington will acquaint your Grace whether it is likely I shall return by the shortest way, or take a little tour. Should I call at other courts, though only for a day or two, it may perhaps be

1746. worth Mr. Leveson's while to see 'em, if his time is unemployed ; but then I must beg your Grace will lose none in making the inquiry and in despatching him, as some circumstances in a route I have proposed wo'n't admit of delay. I must likewise advise him that I shall probably make my whole journey rather as a courier than a minister, which may render it not answerable to the fatigues he may undergo. I own I mention it principally to demonstrate my eagerness to conform to what your Grace and Lord Gower desire. I hope for better opportunities of assuring his lordship of my most respectful esteem, and your Grace of the most affectionate gratitude, with which

I am, &c.

THOS. VILLIERS.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO CAPTAIN BOSCAWEN.

August 8. 1746.

Sir,

As the Board of Admiralty has been obliged to send down orders to Portsmouth, to meet you at your arrival at that port, for the striking your broad pendant, and as I was apprehensive that without some notification of it to you by private letter, previous to your doing of it, you might be

surprised at such an order, I trouble you with this to inform you of our reasons for so doing, and to assure you that it is not meant as the least disregard or slight to you ; but that as Captain Wyndham, who is a senior captain to you, is now going out in the Kent with Mr. Anson, it would be impossible for him to serve in a squadron when a junior officer should have such a distinguishing mark in preference to him. I beg I may not be understood to mean that the Board has any thoughts of investing Captain Wyndham with this mark of distinction, which the constant practice of the navy now obliges us to divest you of. We do not apprehend Admiral Anson will be able to get together before the commencement of the winter (when most of the great ships must of course be brought home) so large a squadron of ships as to make it necessary to have a commodore with a broad pendant under him. If the service should require it, and the present impediment to it should cease, which may possibly be the case (considering Captain Wyndham's ill state of health), I can assure you there is no one I should sooner wish to see in that station than yourself, as I am thoroughly satisfied of your abilities and zeal for his Majesty's service. As I flatter myself you will consider this affair in the same light as it appears to me, I hope to hear from you that you are preparing, as soon as your ship shall be cleaned and refitted, to join Admiral Anson ; and I can assure you, that whenever a proper opportunity shall offer of doing any

1746.

1746. thing for your service, no one will have more
pleasure in it than myself, who am, &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Portsmouth, August 11. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter with the enclosed for Commodore Boscawen, which I read, and think nothing properer could be said upon the occasion. He will certainly be very well satisfied when he receives it, as he knows it to be the common practice of the navy. The equipment of my squadron goes on but slowly. Admiral Lestock's expedition, whilst it continues here, will clog every other service at this port. The season is very late for a convoy of ships to get to the Northern part of America. Colonel Frampton's regiment, that has been now embarked at Spithead sixteen weeks, is at present afflicted very much with the scurvy: all the men and officers, except the General, are sick of the expedition, and will receive the account of its being stopped with as much satisfaction as Lord Cromartie will his reprieve. The masters of the transports tell the men the passage will be long, and that they shall meet with great difficulties, which occasions a general discontent, and is a bad omen for the man that commands.

Admiral Lestock has not left the face of a seaman at Spithead, nor has he an ordinary seaman in his whole fleet. I don't blame him, because it is the custom of all admirals; but I feel a good deal upon the occasion, because all the ships of my squadron are greatly under complement, and the men much worked down by having been kept so long at sea. It will be impossible to man the Duke, and the season is too far advanced for three-deck ships: she had like to have foundered when Admiral Balchen was lost, which was in October. If the Northern expedition should be laid aside, I desire your Grace will add the Edinburgh to my squadron, Captain Coates being very desirous to be with me: as he can trust his men, he will clean his ship in six days. I suppose the Ambassador is gone, but beg your Grace will make my compliments to the rest of the Board, and believe me, &c.

G. ANSON.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, September 19. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I had this day the honour of your Grace's letter, and have been very sorry to hear you have had so severe a return of your rheumatism. The contrary winds detained our fleet a great while at

1746. Plymouth, and both our admiral and general don't seem disposed to overlook difficulties. Our news from Italy is good as possible, and the Queen of Hungary and the King of Sardinia have promised us to penetrate into France: if they keep their words, they will do their own business and ours too. The Dutch garrison at Namur behaved scandalously, but the citadel and the material fort of Cloquet are not yet taken. I heartily wish your Grace a speedy recovery, and that we may soon have the honour of seeing you here.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Arlington Street, September 30. 1746.

My Lord,

I had this day the honour of your Grace's letter, with the two enclosed copies of Sir Chaloner Ogle's and Mr. Cleveland's to your Grace. You do me great honour in consulting me upon filling the vacancy at Rochester upon the death of Admiral Haddock: I can assure your Grace, whoever is most agreeable to you will be of consequence so to me. They are both gentlemen hearty in the present interest of the Government, and I believe, with your Grace's recommendation, would either of them be acceptable to the town of Rochester. I conclude

before this time you have had another application 1746.
from Admiral Byng, who, as well as Mr. Cleveland,
sent to me upon the subject. My answer was, that
one admiral was generally chose for that town,
and that whoever your Grace made choice of would
be very acceptable to me. I do imagine they will
expect an admiral; and I remember very well what
your Grace says as to Sir Chaloner's acquiescence
in the choice of Mr. Gore at Portsmouth. That
was some merit in Sir Chaloner; otherwise, by the
character I have heard of Admiral Byng, I should
think him a man of more activity and consequence
than the other. I have taken the liberty to state
to your Grace my notion of the several candidates,
and submit the determination entirely to your
pleasure. And when your Grace does determine,
whatever interest lies in my way shall be employed
as you direct. I hope your Grace is in a mending
way, and that we shall soon have the honour and
pleasure of seeing you in town. There is no news
of consequence come by the last mail. Namur, I
suppose you know, has surrendered. Sandwich has
had a meeting at Breda with the French plenipo-
tentiary and the new Pensionary of Holland. It
was insisted on our side, that the Plenipotentiaries
of the Queen of Hungary and the King of Sardinia
should be admitted. M. Puisseux said he could
not do that without orders from his court, which
he apprehended would never come into it. He
would have delivered a long paper containing
the ideas of France upon the terms of a peace,

1746. altered from what was delivered some time ago in M. d'Argenson's plan, but Sandwich would not receive it till the other point was settled: this occasioned an adjournment for some days, and Lord Sandwich has taken that opportunity of going to the Hague to meet his lady, and conduct her to Breda. Between you and I, I don't imagine this congress will last long; I hope in God we shall have something to propose for carrying on the war, since we are not likely to hit upon any terms of peace. We hear nothing of Admiral Lestock: the violent storm of last night and this day puts us into some fear for him. I ask pardon of your Grace for troubling you with so long a letter; I did not intend it when I begun, and, luckily, my paper wo'n't allow me more room than to assure your Grace that

I am, &c.

H. PELHAM.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, October 2. 1746.

My dear Lord,

By some conference I had with Mr. Pelham this morning, I am afraid the applications are increased to the number three since the date of your letter with which I am honoured; and perhaps the third and last may be as difficult to adjust with the other two as they can possibly be with each

other. Supposing the secretary out of the question 1746.
(though I think by your letter you will be most inclined to vote still on his side), you will have age, superior flag, fortune, and prior solicitation for something of this kind on one hand—family, court-martial fatigue (from one end to the other), and a kind of active character and vogue on account of Scotland on the other. I know Mr. Pelham is extremely sensible of your Grace's kind attention to him in this affair, and will be very glad if he can assist in extricating you out of any difficulties it may lay upon you. And I am empowered by him to say, that in case it should lie between the two admirals, and it can be of any use to your Grace upon a decision in favour of the junior to set it to his account, you are heartily welcome (as the gamesters say) to ride home upon his name. The junior did apply to him, and his having done so may give you a plea of prior recommendation from Mr. Pelham. But this supposes you resolved, and is only an expedient to make one sort of determination, when taken, more palatable to the rejected candidates, and ease you of the ill-will which might otherwise attend this decision, and which cannot light at all, or will do it with fewer disagreeable circumstances, upon Mr. Pelham than upon your Grace. Though I agree with your Grace that perhaps the least powerful candidate would make the most effective man, yet I am afraid, in this case, you will be forced to make him wait longer: for if he is preferred, the other two will certainly be disobliged;

1746. and if one of them be taken, the utmost ill consequence will be, that the other will be discontented, and that, probably, not beyond the bounds of pacification. As I have no personal bias to any of the parties, I can only heartily wish that your Grace may make the choice which will tend most to your own ease and satisfaction.

I had such a plentiful discharge of nonsense in my last, that I think I need not trouble your Grace, designedly at least, with any in this ; though I can't help saying it is well done of the partridges to hold such riotous assemblies when they know I can't come to disperse them. I have often observed that at this time of year, when they begin to grow a little old, they are very apt to hold drums, where they play at whist and quadrille, especially the hens.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, October 4. 1746.

My dear Lord,

By way of supplement to my last, permit me to acquaint your Grace that Pigot teases me without mercy, to solicit that he may go in Ned's squadron ; and Ned teases me as much, that Paliser may be his captain. These are matters entirely in

your own breast, and in which I have no pretension to concern myself, and when I have mentioned them my conscience is satisfied. But twenty-gun ships will probably be very much wanted at Barbadoes; and all I know of Paliser is, that Ned is fallen in love with Paliser at the court-martial, where his behaviour proved him much of a seaman and officer; at that court-martial where (by way of episode), let me observe, the judges still sit, and will, I believe, like Æacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus, those judges of hell, continue sitting to all eternity.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

MR. LEVESON GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Breda, October 6. 1746. N.S.

My Lord Duke,

The citadel of Namur, which I bragged so much of in my last letter to the Duchess, has surrendered on the 30th most shamefully, after eight days' defence only. The garrison are made prisoners of war, and are to be conducted to Mons. There were no less than two and twenty hundred of them that deserted to the French during the siege. You see, my Lord, the strongest fortifications will not make men behave well. Brussels, the town the least fortified of any in this part of the world, could

1746. sustain itself three and twenty days against a much stronger detachment than that before Namur. What will M. Bathiani do? If he durst not attack them while they were weakened by that detachment, what will he do now? Provisions grow scarce on the side of Maestricht, and 'tis impossible Holland can furnish winter quarters for such an army. The King of Sardinia and Mr. Brown are now our chief hopes : if they can make a powerful diversion in Flanders by attacking the South of France, all will go well, as I am certain such a measure will give us here a great superiority both in the field and in our negotiations.

There is no material business as yet begun here. My Lord and Mr. Puy sieux have had but one conference ; I suppose they will have another to-morrow, as Mr. Wassenaer, who has been at Utrecht these two days past (for what I am sure I don't know), is expected here to-night. He told me, by way of a great compliment, that he should send for his son here; that he was just such another young gentleman as me, and was sure we should be great friends. I have heard since that he is a very stupid fellow. I heard Mr. Puy sieux yesterday whisper Mr. Keith*, and ask if I was not Lord Gower's son; and upon his saying yes, he turned about to his secretary and said, *C'est le même, je le connois bien*. I suppose he took me for my brother: he is a very well-bred man, and has the best champaign I ever

* Secretary to Lord Sandwich.

tasted. By this time your Grace is very well tired of this nonsense; I hope you will excuse my impertinence, and believe me to be, with great respect, &c. &c. 1746.

R. L. GOWER.

P.S. Mr. Villiers is at the Hague. I believe I shall go on Saturday to pay my respects to him and thank him.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Whitehall, October 7. 1746.

My dear Lord,

The Duchess of Richmond and I are in great apprehensions of just indignation from your Grace and the Duchess of Bedford, for not having kept our words in waiting on you both at Woburn; but indeed I could not bear the thoughts of that pleasure but for one day, and more than one day as our engagements stood was impossible; and business that I cannot put off, such as attending Cope's affair in town to-morrow, and our sessions at Chichester afterwards, makes it impossible before you set out for Bath, where I most sincerely wish you may find your health fully restored, and next summer the Duchess of Richmond and I are fully resolved to accept of your most kind invitation, and

1746. — hope that our not making use of it at present will be forgiven. And now I must apply to you as my master to know what your intentions are for the vacancy at the Trinity House. It is true that both you and I have promised that exceeding troublesome fellow Vernon, not to say worse of him; but if he insists upon our promise, I am pretty sure he will not have one other vote besides ours; but if he has a grain of sense he will waive it, and I shall for my own part be entirely governed by your Grace, but can't help mentioning that my friend Admiral Townsend has been a great while upon the list, and I really think it would be hard to set him aside; whereas if you choose any other admiral he must first be elected a younger brother; so it would be directly laying Townsend aside and putting another over his head, which I am sure you will think he does not deserve; so I hope, my dear Lord, that you will consider of it, and be assured that I am on all occasions, &c. &c.

RICHMOND.

MR. LEVESON GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, October 14. 1746. N. S.

My Lord Duke,

I am extremely concerned that I am to send your Grace such bad news as that of a battle in

Flanders* to our great disadvantage. On Tuesday last the French, as is supposed, either designing to set down before Maestricht, or to draw off the allied army from this part of the world to straiten them in their winter quarters, attacked the left of our army, composed of the troops in our pay and the Dutch, who, although they behaved with great resolution and bravery, were forced to retire behind the right wing composed of the Austrians, leaving behind them some cannon and two pair of colours. The reason why the Austrians did not engage is, that had they gone to the assistance of the left the French would have gained their point in cutting off the communication with this country and besieging Maestricht, which they cannot do at present, as our army is now encamped under the cannon of that place. The number of the killed and wounded of our side is reckoned here from 1000 to 4000, though I send a letter from the French army to-day that said the allies left behind them but 1200. All the letters from both armies agree that the loss of the French is much more considerable, as a body of nine Hanoverian battalions defended a village against an infinite number of the enemy for four hours, which place they could not have forced but by pouring in every minute fresh supplies. Two Bavarian regiments that arrived there but two days before are entirely ruined, as likewise two Hessian battalions, of which they say there remains but one

* The battle of Roucoux, on the 11th of October.

1746. captain and fifty private men. The Dutch behaved incomparably well, insomuch that they lost many of their officers, and some of their best regiments are almost ruined. Of our troops I hear of but two battalions engaged, which some say are taken prisoners. Colonel Montague is said to be killed, Major Noble taken, and poor Sir Harry Nesbitt shot through the body. I have heard nothing particular of the killed and wounded of the French side. The Marquis de Fenelon, who was formerly ambassador here, is killed. I hear that Prince Waldeck, who is greatly blamed, treats this affair in his account as a thing of no great consequence.* What I here send your Grace is what I could pick up from the best hands, and what I believe you will find at present the most authentic.

I am, &c.

R. LEVESON GOWER.

P. S. There are letters from Paris which give an account of our troops landing near Port L'Orient, and that the town had offered to capitulate if not relieved in four and twenty hours.

* "We make light of it; do not allow it to be a battle, but call it 'the action near Liege.'"—*H. Walpole's Letters*, vol. ii. p. 161.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD

1746.

Admiralty, October 17. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I was very sorry I lost the last parting glimpse of you at Mr. Pelham's, from whence I was sent on an embassy to the Treasury, and did not return till you were gone. I was the more disappointed, because I should have been glad to have known what determination you came to about the prisoners. To-day I received a letter from B., in which he says that he has lately sent away above 200, and is under orders to send away 180 more; that some of those he sent have been already retaken in privateers; and there are actually now no less than twelve privateers at St. Malo, which lie there gaping for such prisoners as shall return, and when their bellies are full, they will not fail to sally forth upon our trade. He seems to think it bad policy to supply the French with mariners before our just debt of prisoners is fully satisfied; and, all things considered, I don't think the French deserve any thing like generosity from us in the affair of returning prisoners. As I believe your Grace has conferred upon this subject with Mr. Pelham, if you approve I will communicate this letter of B.'s to him. I can see a very strong private reason why B. should wish to detain as many prisoners as possible, and make allowance for this consideration in my own opinion; but if it so happens that the interest of the public does really go hand in hand

1746. with that of B., I dare say your Grace would not give less attention to the former for fear of contributing to the latter; and, to do the man justice if he is capable of holding this language from mere views of self-interest, I am as much deceived in him as ever I was in any man. A certain lord (whom I know you don't delight in no more than your humble servant does) made me a visit this morning and, after asking several questions concerning your Grace's kind intentions towards Palliser, gave me to understand that he had thoughts of soliciting your Grace to give that sloop, when vacant, to his brother, and seemed to wish that if I had an opportunity I would co-operate with him. The supposition of my being at all able to assist with your Grace I own was flattering, and I could not help feeling that I liked it very much; but upon recovering my senses, I find that though I am very indifferent as to the successes of that noble family, I am by no means so as to your Grace's ease and happiness and can only see this in the light of an occasion which may be made to contribute more or less to your own quiet. If it is not done for him he will certainly continue to tease and lay perpetual schemes till it is. He will perhaps plead the examples of Sir John Norris, Sir John Franklyn Lord Harry Powlet, &c. &c., and of all other lords of Admiralty, who have never failed to give most partial preference to their brothers and sons; and indeed, the service in general are so used to it, and expect it so much of course, that when it happens

they never are surprised or repine at all at it ; on the contrary, if it is done with a good grace for his brother, he must be the most ungrateful dog living if he forgets the obligation, or knows any other rule for his conduct at the Board but that of making your Grace happy. To do him justice, he talks in the style of one who would not breed dissensions at the Board ; and I should rather impute his past behaviour to youth, impertinence, real ignorance of the world, with an opinion of his own to the contrary, than to badness of heart : but I know very little of his inward man ; and as to his outward, there is but little of it to know, which is a good symptom. 1746.

I hope your Grace and the Duchess (to whom I beg my best compliments) are safely arrived at Bath, and that you lie under cover there according to the solemn engagement and promise of Lady Caroline. That you may not sicken at the sight of my epistles, which I own are frequent and long, I beg you will never think of answering them ; for I know reading is not good with Bath water, and writing is much worse. The court-martial will infallibly end on Tuesday next, and that you may not think my letter rivals it in length,

I am, &c.

H. LEGGE.

1746.

MR. LEVESON GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, October 18. 1746. N. S.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace will find that this affair in Flanders will not turn out so much to our disadvantage. The Dutch take it very much to heart, and the reputation their troops have got by their good behaviour makes them very uppish. The French here, who one would imagine to be very insolent upon it, are quite the contrary: whether it proceeds from the effects they see this affair has upon the people here, or from the attack Mr. Lestock has made upon the coasts of Britany, I can't say; but the fact is true, and there is not one of them that says a word. The loss of the Dutch by the muster since the action amounts to 1768 killed, wounded, and missing, and that of the troops in our pay to about the same number. The French have lost twice as many, so that they have no good reason to be very well pleased. They have since retired to their old camp at Tongres, and have begun to detach for Italy with twenty battalions and twenty squadrons. If the King of Sardinia and the Austrians are in earnest, their detachments wo'n't end there. Mr. Lestock (who every body supposes has done them great mischief, since they have stopt all letters) will I hope force them to detach too, and then I fancy our negotiations at Breda will have a good face, which is the sincere wish of

R. LEVESON GOWER.

P.S. Mr. Keith and I set out for Breda next Thursday. We have heard nothing of Lady Sandwich. 1746. ———

The letters from Paris to-day mention that our troops are re-embarked, and have failed in their attempt on Port L'Orient ; but I don't believe it.

LORD VERE BEAUCLERK TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty Office, October 21. 1746.

My Lord,

I am just come from the Duke of Newcastle, who has commanded me to make his excuses to your Grace for not writing himself, and to acquaint you that the King received yesterday certain accounts that the first column of the Austrians marched towards Provence on the 2d instant, O. S. ; and that, if no unforeseen accident had happened, it was thought that 55 battalions would be in Provence by this time, and would be immediately followed by 3000 horse ; and that we hoped, if necessary, the Queen of Hungary might be induced to send more troops thither, which are now in the State of Genoa ; that of course this would become one great object of the war, and therefore the command of the King's ships upon that coast should be intrusted to a discreet and experienced officer ;

1746. that Captain Townshend* having been suspended in order for his trial, and Captain Hughes, who succeeded him in the command, expecting to be called away, being a material evidence at that trial, the command might possibly devolve upon some young officer, which made the King of Sardinia extremely uneasy, and he had earnestly desired that a proper person might be immediately appointed; upon which the King yesterday ordered the Duke of Newcastle to speak to me about it, and directed that one should be immediately named, and sent away by land to Genoa. I have therefore thought of Commodore Osborn, if your Grace approves of him. I am sensible Rear Admiral Byng was some time ago in your thoughts for the Mediterranean; but as he is still embarrassed, and most likely may be some weeks longer with the court-martial, it makes his going impossible; besides which you will most probably want him this winter, as they are already beginning their usual preparations at Dunkirk. I am also ordered by the Duke of Newcastle to acquaint your Grace that there are reports in France of D'Anville's having attacked Louisbourg by sea and land, and of his having been repulsed with great loss. Lestock and St. Clair are landed again at Quiberon; but we are strangers to their designs, not having had one word from them. I am inclined to beg of your Grace to return me your

* George Townshend, eldest son of Charles Lord Viscount Townshend: he was tried by a court-martial, and honourably acquitted.

answer to this by express, as they are in a great hurry to have the person go who is to command upon the coast of Italy. We yesterday appointed Lieutenant Preston to command the Basilisk bomb at Plymouth. I am extremely sorry to begin so soon being troublesome to your Grace, which I would avoid if it was possible, as

I am ever, with the truest respect, &c.

VERE BEAUCLERK.

MR. GRENVILLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty Office, October 24. 1746.

My Lord,

Though your Grace is informed of the despatches we received last night from Louisbourg by Captain Craven's having passed through Bath in his way to town, yet I think it possible you may not yet have heard of the news which came to-day from Plymouth. Captain Saumarez, in the Nottingham, has brought in there the Mars, a French ship of 64 guns, which he took about 20 leagues to the westward of Cape Clear after an engagement of two hours and a half, in which the French had 30 men killed and wounded, and the Nottingham but nine. When the Mars struck she was extremely shattered in her masts and rigging, and had three shot under water, so that Captain Saumarez says if the weather had not proved fine he should have had great diffi-

1746. culty in bringing her into Plymouth. She says she was one of M. d'Anville's squadron, and separated from him in a hard gale of wind on the 4th of September off the Isle of Sables, together with the Alcides of 64 guns and a store ship; that they have lost a great many of their men by sickness, and a considerable number of her crew were down with scurvy at the time of her being taken, several of whom are since dead. They say the fleet was bound for Acadia, which agrees with the accounts received from Louisbourg; and as Annapolis and Canso are in no degree able to resist the force they carried with them, I am much afraid that the French are in possession of that whole province, where it is evident they design to establish themselves by their preparations at the harbour of Chebocton. Mr. Knowles indeed writes word that it will be easy to drive them from thence next year with the troops from England, assisted by our American colonies. But as to the latter, unless some measures are immediately taken, it seems to me that you can have no dependence; because it is said in the city that they have disbanded their levies, which is most likely, considering that they have been at a vast expense, and have been disappointed both of men and money, and have not received even a promise of any for next year. If they are disbanded now, and are not directed forthwith to complete their levies during the winter against next spring, with proper assurances of being supported early in the spring both with troops and money, your Grace

will easily see that next summer will be spent just as the last was; and it seems of very great importance that the French should not have a summer to establish themselves in Acadia: if they have, I am apprehensive that we shall find it almost as hard to remove them from thence as from Canada. Lord Vere showed me your Grace's letter to him upon the subject of sending another officer under Mr. Medley, and I have the honour of agreeing entirely with you that Mr. Byng is the properest person to be sent. I went this morning with Lord Vere to the Duke of Newcastle, who made no objection to it; in consequence of which the proper orders have been given to-day for taking Mr. Byng from the court-martial, and dispatching him away immediately. We received a packet from Admiral Medley by the Lisbon mail this morning, which contains nothing extraordinary but the result of a court-martial upon Captain Long and Captain Horne, in which the former is broke, and the latter mulcted a year's pay. Their offence was fighting a duel in Captain Long's cabin; but it appeared that he was the aggressor, and obliged Captain Horne, who was the junior officer, to draw in his own defence, which is the reason given for the difference in their sentence. The Guards, whose motions have of late been very uncertain (I hope not irregular) continue still in a state of uncertainty. When they put back to Plymouth, upon the accounts given of Admiral Lestock by the transports that came from him, it was said they had lost so much time that it would be to no purpose for them

1746. to continue upon their former destination, and they were therefore ordered to come back to the Downs, or to any port that Major-general Fuller should approve, on the news of the lodgment made by General St. Clair upon Quiberon Point. Orders were sent on Wednesday last to stop the Guards at Plymouth, duplicates of which were sent to Portsmouth and the Downs; but by the post to-day, from Commissioner Vanbrugh, we find the Guards sailed from Plymouth for the Downs on Tuesday morning: since which we have heard nothing of them, but are under a great deal of uneasiness, as the wind blew a storm last night. I wish they had been with Mr. St. Clair, and so, perhaps, did they too: but wishes are vain, at least mine are so; otherwise they would not have come back to Plymouth, nor from Plymouth. I have obeyed your Grace's commands with regard to Lieutenant Vernon and Mr. Grice; the former of whom has leave of absence, as Lord Trentham desires, and the latter is discharged. Lord Vere will have informed you that, in consequence of what passed at his house, Lieutenant Preston was made some days ago into the Basilisk bomb; since which Captain Duff has been commissioned for the Anglesea, one of the Liverpool 44-gun ships, and Lieutenant Riggs for the Terror bomb in his room. It is with very great pleasure that I repeat to your Grace my sincerest thanks for your indulgence to me on this occasion, which cannot be so agreeable to me in any light as when I look upon it as an instance of kindness and attention to

me. It is to the satisfaction I have in repeating this, and to the good news in the beginning of my letter, that your Grace is indebted for the trouble that I have given you, which, I find, is drawn out to a most enormous length without my thinking of it. I wish it may be read in the same manner, and shall be thoroughly satisfied if you will do me the honour only to remember the conclusion of it, which is to assure your Grace that

I am, &c. &c.

GEORGE GRENVILLE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, October 25. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter, and entirely agree with you that Admiral Byng is much the properest person that can be sent to the Mediterranean. He has been with me upon the receipt of your Grace's letter, and will set out for Genoa by land the beginning of next week. I presume your Grace proposes he should be under Vice Admiral Medley's command. I last night sent a courier to Mr. Villettes, who has behaved very imprudently upon the dispute between the courts of Vienna and Turin relating to the capitulation of Genoa, and have acquainted him that Admiral Byng

1746. was coming by land to take the command upon him. As in all probability the allied army, consisting of about 30,000 men, is by this time in Provence, our principal care must be, first, to engage the Queen of Hungary and the King of Sardinia to send more troops, if wanted, into France ; secondly, to support these operations by our squadron at sea, and particularly by that means to keep them constantly supplied with provisions.

I am extremely sorry for the many accidents that have happened relating to the Guards, &c., that were advanced as far as the Lizard on their way to join Lestock and Sinclair ; but as they had lost so many days of fair wind, and most people thought, and the transports said, Mr. Lestock was returning home, orders were sent to Mr. G. Julier, which orders he received at his return to Plymouth, to return. When we had an account that they were in Quiberon Bay, a sloop was immediately sent to Lestock and Sinclair that, if they had any object in view and could safely stay there, they should send orders to Plymouth to Mr. G. Julier, who was in that case to proceed forthwith to join them. But the orders to Julier at Plymouth came too late ; he was sailed, and we were afraid they would have been lost in the violent storm last Thursday night ; but I thank God I have this morning an account from Julier that they were yesterday safe in the Downs, the Admiral disabled by the storm, and much damage done to the transports, as he supposed. Upon this we have been forced to order them all to Gravesend,

or the ships and troops might be all lost. I am 1746.
 most heartily sorry for it; but it really happens
 from our not having one word from Lestock and
 Sinclair since they left Plymouth, or knowing
 where they are but by accounts from the enemy.
 Your Grace will have heard that we have letters
 from Knowles of the 15th of September. The
 French fleet was off Acadia; but I think Duc
 d'Anville must have lost or have separated from
 him half the men-of-war and half the transports.
 Cape Breton is safe: we must now think what orders
 and what force to send thither.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, October 25. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I have the honour to agree entirely with
 your Grace as to the merits of Lord Barrington's
 pretensions, and yet I can't help being glad you
 have consented, as I think it will contribute to your
 own ease and satisfaction, for I plainly saw he was
 fortified with all the precedents that have ever
 happened of the like partiality, so that you would
 not have been able to have held out above five or
 six months against the repeated schemes, pleas, and
 solicitations of himself and friends; and I think that

1746. difference, as it would by no means have been sufficient to have sanctified the deed at last, and would in the mean while have created much trouble to you, was hardly worth considering. On the contrary, if he forgets the obliging manner in which you have done this favour for him, he must be all, and more, and worse, that has ever been suspected of him. I take it for granted your Grace has had the sentence of the court-martial, together with the resolutions, sent to you, by which you will see that pique, and spleen, and ill-nature have not prevailed among their deliberations; for, considering the facts made out against him, the Admiral has certainly been mercifully dealt with. By what I can learn of the grounds they proceeded upon, they were of this sort; that though crimes were made appear which fall under articles proscribing death (but which leave to the court a power of mitigation according to circumstances), yet, considering age, long confinement, and, above all, the profound ignorance and insufficiency which pleaded for him, they thought it cruel, and not at all edifying, to hang a fool of seventy years old for a matter which passed four years ago. This consideration reduced them to the thoughts of adding *fine* to cashiering; but when they came to examine precedents, they found this had never been done, but where there had been a loss of ships or stores, by way of indemnification to the public. From thence they naturally came to the sentence they have given, which, too, has this further propriety in it, that it was given unani-

mously : and yet I am told the Admiral is fool enough to complain; if so, he will certainly get himself expelled the House of Commons. The affair of Lord Chief Justice still remains in the hands of Baron Clerk undecided. But I think if the Chief Justice does not take care, he will put himself as much in the wrong as ever the court-martial were, or as he was himself before the court-martial were so indiscreet as to put him in the right. They offer to sign a letter to him, confessing that they mistook the point, are sensible they did him great injustice, are sorry for it, and ask his pardon. If after this offer (which all mankind will think a very sufficient satisfaction to his honour), he shall pursue pecuniary satisfaction by bringing actions, and sequester about twenty-eight of his Majesty's officers, by arrests in the midst of war with France and Spain, only to gratify—not his honour but—his pride, spleen, and avarice, it will be a matter highly worthy the interposition of Parliament; where perhaps he may come off but lamely. 1746.

Commodore Legge has received his commission, for which he, as well as his brother Henry and all his family are infinitely obliged to your Grace. The Commodore is actually now in a state of retirement with a crow-quill and Indian ink, in order to write to your Grace a letter of acknowledgment, in a style and hand as unlike as possible to those he bestows upon his own brethren. But this should not serve his turn without paying your Grace his thanks in person, if his departure had not been

1746. fixed with the merchants in three weeks. This has put him in a very great hurry, and he knows the best sacrifice he can make to your Grace is that of executing the commission you have honoured him with diligently and punctually.

I most heartily congratulate your Grace upon the taking of the Mars. Is it not very remarkable that almost all the glory we have got this war has fallen to the share of Mr. Anson's pupils—Bret, Stephens, and Saumarez? I own this consideration gives me some little superstitious expectation from Commodore Legge. But I catch my pen running without mercy, and perceive it is high time to assure your Grace, that I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

ADMIRAL BYNG TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berkeley Square, October 25. 1746.

My Lord,

I was yesterday with my Lord Vere, who told me your Grace had recommended me to the King to go to the Mediterranean, to command a squadron of his Majesty's ships employed on the coast of Italy.

I am greatly obliged to your Grace for this honour and confidence you have put in me; and I hope I shall behave in such a manner, that your Grace will not repent the choice you have made.

I do not think myself equal to the task I am going to undertake. I can only assure your Grace, that nothing shall be wanting in me to forward his Majesty's service all that lays in my power. The only difficulty I have at present is the being sent away at so short a warning, and to find my way to Genoa by land, a road I have never been; and I am told I shall find it extremely cold before I get to my journey's end: my only fear is I shall be laid up upon the road, for I have now upon me the remains of the gout I brought with me from Scotland.

I am to be with the Duke of Newcastle on Tuesday morning next, when I believe I shall receive my last instructions; and I hope to be able to set out on my journey the latter end of the week. I beg leave to assure your Grace that, whilst I am abroad, nothing will give me more pleasure than to be honoured with your Grace's commands, which I shall very punctually obey, being, with great esteem, &c. &c.

J. BYNG.

CAPTAIN BOSCAWEN TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Namur, at sea, October 27. 1746.

My Lord,

Enclosed I send you two letters of intelligence from two officers of the late Duke d'Anville's

1746. squadron; they were both directed to Abbés. All the public letters the master owns to have thrown overboard by order of Monsieur La Jonquière, who succeeds to the command: all the other letters agree that the whole squadron is in a most distressed condition, though they seem to think Annapolis Royal will be attempted before they return; some other letters that confirm these circumstances I have transmitted to Mr. Corbet, with my other proceedings since my sailing from Plymouth. I can't help saying, that if it had been possible for the ships and forces that were under Mr. Lestock, and, I imagine, designed for that part of the world, to have got out in time, in all probability they would have had a fair opportunity of destroying almost all those ships, which would have greatly distressed the naval power of France: their sickness will so reduce them, that, should a squadron of ours fall in with them on their return, many of them must fall. I think they will make directly for the port of Brest. The vessel that brought these letters I took yesterday. She came from Chiboutu eighteen days ago: went out with the squadron loaded with provisions, and was on her return loaded with old stores.

On the 24th the Prince Frederick took the *Intrépide* privateer of St. Malo: she mounted 20 guns, six-pounders; had been eight days out, with 200 men, but had taken nothing. They inform us of 18 privateers fitting out at port, but that they are in great distress for men, which I verily believe, as I never saw so bad a crew upon salt water before;

there were not twenty men in the number that
could go aloft. 1746.

I have sent Mr. Corbet the intelligence I received from the English merchant ships that were under convoy of the Woolwich and Severn, and hope you will approve of our determination in that affair. I think the intelligence was certain, and hope yet, if the men-of-war return to Brest, we may meet them.

I am, &c. &c.

E. BOSCAWEN.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Yarmouth, in Plymouth Sound,
October 28. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

I am this moment come to an anchor with eight sail in the Sound: being reduced, one ship with another, to a fortnight's water, I could not venture to keep the sea longer with them. My stay here will be as short as possible, as there seems to be some prospect of intercepting the Duke d'Anville's fleet before they get into Brest, as I imagine that is the port they will come to. My men begin to be sickly, and most of the ships very foul. It was my intention to have gone into Hammoze, and give the ships boothose tops, and refreshed my men for a fortnight; but the hopes of destroying some of the enemy's fleet will make me risk health and every thing else. We have been very unlucky to meet

1746. with none of the enemy's ships, as I was in the latitudes of between 46 and 49 about the time these disabled ships must have passed. Captain Saumarez is the only lucky man; and I am excessively pleased he has answered the recommendation I gave him, and am greatly obliged to your Grace for providing for him so soon. Nothing could make Cape Finisterre without my seeing them. I took the packet boat from the Havannah, bound to Ferrol, by which I am informed that the Spanish men-of-war will not be at home till December or January. I have wrote to the Admiralty to send what ships are clean and in readiness to join me, as I cannot make up ten sail, and D'Anville has still fourteen of the line besides frigates, as Saumarez informs me. I hope your Grace finds benefit at Bath, and that all your family enjoy perfect health, as I wish every kind of prosperity may ever attend you, &c. &c.

G. ANSON.

LORD GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, October 29. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I was so much hurried with business upon my leaving Trentham, that I could not possibly get one moment's leisure to return your Grace my most sincere thanks for the very kind and friendly letter which I had the honour to receive from you two

days before I left that place. I am perfectly well 1746.
 satisfied with the reasons you give for not complying with the request I made to you on behalf of Mr. Milnes, and I doubt not Lord Chetwynd, who recommended that gentleman to me, will be so too. I am very sensible that the greatest economy is necessary at this juncture, and wish all our brother ministers may think as wisely as you do on that subject. We all arrived here well on Monday night, and yesterday morning I went to inquire how our master does (who has been confined for some days by his old complaint), and was told, as soon as I came into the room, that Lord Harrington had resigned, and Lord Chesterfield accepted his seals. I came home with the new secretary, who told me he scarce knew whether he stood upon his head or his heels; that he came to town but the night before, had seen the Duke of Newcastle in the morning, who had asked him if he would accept the seals in case Lord Harrington resigned them; that he had told him he would, rather than an enemy should have them, but that he hoped Lord Harrington would be made easy by negotiation, and was never more surprised than when he was told, at his first coming to court, that Lord Harrington had resigned and gone home. Harry Pelham* told

* "You will see by your public despatches, that Lord Harrington resigned the seals this day, and that Lord Chesterfield is his successor as Secretary of State. This event, you may easily imagine, gives me great concern, and puts me under some difficulty, for I truly think Lord Harrington both an able and an honest minister." Mr. Pelham to Mr. Trevor. —*Coxe*, vol. i. p. 341.

1746. me that he was as much surprised as any body, for that he was endeavouring to make things easy when he was informed of the resignation. This is all I could learn yesterday, and I have been this morning at all their houses in hopes of picking up more intelligence for you, but have found nobody at home ; but I hope and don't doubt that some of them will give you a more full and perfect account of this affair than I have been able to pick up. As soon as I am better informed I shall take the liberty to trouble you again, if I don't hear that you have been better informed by those that know more than a poor country gentleman who is but just come to town. I thank you for your kind invitation to Bath, but in the dim light I see things at present, I think there is more probability of your making me a visit here, than of my waiting upon you there; but of this I am sure, that in whatever situation I am, I shall ever be, with the greatest truth, &c. &c.

GOWER.

LORD CHESTERFIELD TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, October 30. 1746.

My Lord,

The King having done me the honour to give me the seals which were resigned by Lord Harrington, your Grace will give me leave to assure

you, that in this post in which I am most undeservedly and unexpectedly placed, your Grace shall always find me, with the truest attachment, &c. &c.

1746.

CHESTERFIELD.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, October 30. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I have the honour of your Grace's letter, and entirely agree with you in every part of it. I should not have troubled your Grace by this post, but was wishing to give you some account of the late event of my Lord Harrington's resignation of the seals. We had some difference of opinion about the orders to be sent to Lord Sandwich for inducing the States to agree to a plan for another campaign, if necessary : this happened last Monday night, upon which Lord Harrington complained much of being overruled in his own province, and of my having had a private correspondence with Lord Sandwich, which I did not deny, but said it was in my private capacity, and without sending any orders or directions whatever. Lord Chancellor afterwards proposed an expedient, which I thought would have reconciled the difference of opinion, and prevented, at least for the present, any resolution my

1746. Lord Harrington seemed disposed to take.* Lord Chesterfield came to town on Monday night. I told him what had passed with Lord Harrington, and that if there should be a vacancy in the secretary's office, we should be at a loss for a successor; that the person in the world I should wish would be his Lordship, if it was agreeable to the King and himself, and there was not the difficulty of difference of opinion between us as to foreign affairs. Lord Chesterfield spoke extremely kindly and well, desirous to do every thing for the service of the King and his friends. When I came to court I found Lord Harrington had quitted, and when I went into the King he was pleased to tell me he would make whomsoever I recommended. I desired his Majesty would name any body he liked; that I would not recommend any one that his Majesty did not approve of. He then of himself mentioned Lord Chesterfield, though with some objections. I told him, if his Majesty liked it, I thought Lord Chesterfield would do him more service than any body, and be more agreeable to his administration, upon which the King was so good as to do it with great good humour; and I really think the ad-

* Lord Mahon says Lord Harrington "was feebly supported by the Duke of Newcastle." H. Walpole writes, "Lord Harrington, quite on a sudden, resigned the seals; it is said on some treatment not over gracious: but he is no such novice as to be shocked with that; though I believe it has been rough ever since his resigning last year, which he did more boisterously than he is accustomed to behave to Majesty. Others talk of some quarrel with his brother Secretary, who, in complaisance, is all for drums and trumpets." — *Letters*, vol. ii. p. 166.

ministration is now as well and as solidly settled as possible. The King was disposed that I should take the Northern province*, which I have declined, as really upon many accounts thinking it would be best for his Majesty's service, and the ease and satisfaction of the administration, that Lord Chesterfield should have Lord Harrington's department. I have the pleasure to assure your Grace there seems at present more harmony and good correspondence in the administration than I have ever known, and I dare say it will continue. I flatter myself your Grace will approve my having thus advised the vacancy in the secretary's office to be supplied. I have acquainted you with the several circumstances that attended it, being willing you should know every thing that relates to my conduct; but I must beg your Grace would take no notice of the contents of this letter to any body.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

* "The Duke of Newcastle has taken the Northern province, as of more business, and consequently better suited to his experience and abilities." — *Walpole's Letters*, vol. ii. p. 166. This letter proves

how unfounded was this assertion; but Walpole appears to have delighted in every opportunity for an attack upon the Duke of Newcastle.

1746.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

November 4. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

I send enclosed a copy of my letter to the Admiralty, which will inform your Grace of the present condition and disposition of the squadron under my command. All the ships with me have had a large keel, and are well tallowed as low as we could get at them, and hope their provisions and stores will be completed in two or three days. I am sure no pains has been wanting to get them to sea with all the despatch possible, in hopes of better fortune the next cruize, and I am not without some expectation that some of the French may be met with by some of the squadron that are cruizing to the westward and off Cape Finisterre. I am surprised that Mr. Lestock, who had such certain intelligence, from the French ships burnt in the bay, of the shattered condition of D'Anville's ships, should not cruize off Ushant for them, as his squadron was not in want of any thing. The intelligence I got from the Spanish advice boat I think may be depended on, but all schemes at sea are very uncertain. The nights are long, the winter gales blow hard, and, unless fortune favours, a good look out will not always succeed, and we have nothing else for it. When I return, it will be to Portsmouth with the third rates, and shall order the fourth into Plymouth to clean. Captain Keppell is extremely obliged to your Grace for the offer to

go to India, but is very desirous to be continued
 a cruizer to the westward : he, Grenville, and
 Rodney are excellent officers, and have their ships
 in perfect good discipline. I am glad your Grace
 has Captain Byron in your thoughts for a post-ship :
 I think he will turn out well. If Captain Bateman
 could get men he would soon get the Romney to
 sea, and is desirous to try her in the western
 squadron : the ship looks as if she would sail.

I am, &c.

G. ANSON.

ADMIRAL LESTOCK TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Portsmouth, November 4. 1746.

My Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter of the 29th instant, and I am extremely sorry I should have incurred your displeasure by appointing a captain under Captain Cotes; and what makes my uneasiness and mortification the greater is your Grace's opinion that the necessity of his Majesty's service did not justify this step.

Had your Grace been pleased to give me any hint of this sort at Plymouth, in answer to my laying this matter before you, I should have been unpardonable, and much more uneasy; though now I can hardly forgive myself for doing what has not met with your approbation, even though I was so mis-

1746. taken in my judgment as to conclude, when I did it, that, considering all circumstances, no man had stronger reasons for this appointment, which was not done at Plymouth, as the Admiralty Board have suggested.

I proposed to myself the infinite satisfaction of having been thought by your Grace to have done my utmost for carrying the King's views into execution; therefore your great disapprobation in this matter, where I sacrificed my own interest, is such a censure and reprimand that I was not prepared to meet.

I can only say, that I should have struggled with any difficulties in the execution of the King's orders, notwithstanding the necessity, from the want of skilful pilots, for sending some person that could be depended on before the squadron and transports proceeded on a coast where the navigation was hazardous, than have been thought in any manner to have taken a step that was unjustifiable or derogating from the power of the Lord High Admiral. And as to applying to the Board before I left Plymouth, my instructions, I apprehend, enjoined me saying any thing on a subject whereby the secret of the expedition might transpire.

Probably all their lordships knew the destination of the squadron and troops; but, my Lord, as I was expressly forbid by the King's positive command, I thought I durst not mention the subject.

The greatest pleasure in my life, which I always thought the great duty of an officer, is that of

obedience; and whenever I am thought to fail in that, it is such a shock I can't bear: I beg therefore your Grace would be pleased to receive me into your favour, and retain the same great opinion of me as you before honoured me with, in which I was bound to you by gratitude and duty. 1746.

To say I am guilty of an error, is only confessing myself to be wiser to-day than I was yesterday; and if ever I have the honour to command again, the lesson that has been given me will prevent me from taking such a liberty.

I have been ordered to strike my flag. I would fain hope that this order, after so short an expedition, whereby I have been put to great expense, as I fitted out for a foreign voyage under the Admiralty orders, has not proceeded from my having appointed a captain under Captain Cotes: however, it would give me infinite satisfaction to be assured of this.

His Majesty's instructions to the General and me mention the King's intention of sending the squadron and transports to North America as early in the spring as the navigation in those seas will permit. It would be a great addition to the many favours I have received from your Grace, if I could learn whether then there will be occasion for my service: because this knowledge would govern me in my private affairs, which from my late misfortunes, and my being ordered suddenly abroad, have been put in some disorder.

I am, &c. &c.

RICHARD LESTOCK.

1746.

LORD GOWER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, November 6. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I am extremely obliged to you for your letter, and the kind thought of me you express in it. I have yet never been out of England, and am grown too old now to think of crossing the sea; but if my inclinations had been ever so aspiring, I should have curbed them at this juncture, for fear of dividing and weakening the administration at so critical a conjuncture. The Duke of Dorset had not the same way of thinking, and therefore made a most violent push for the lieutenancy; but this day his Majesty has determined the dispute for that office in favour of Lord Harrington, to the general satisfaction of all his servants, and every man in this town that wishes them well, except the Dorset family. As this affair is thus settled, I think the late change will appear to the world only an exchange of offices between the two Stanhopes, and that the administration, as you wish, will in no degree be weakened by it. Mr. Trevor is recalled from the Hague to be made a commissioner of the revenue in Ireland, and our friend Sandwich is appointed to do the business in Holland as well as at Breda, which I look upon as a sure sign that his lordship has done his duty to the King's satisfaction. His Majesty surprised us all this morning by coming out to his levee; it is the first time I have seen him since I came to town, and I was very glad to see him so

little altered by his long confinement. It is now said he will come to this town on Monday or Tuesday, and keep his birthday on Thursday next. I hope your Grace receives great benefit from the Bath waters, and that as things are thus happily settled, no one will think of recalling you until you have perfectly recovered the entire use of your limbs. I beg you will make my compliments to the Duchess, and believe that I am, &c. &c.

GOWER.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, November 6. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter, and in obedience to your commands, take the first opportunity of acquainting you that this day, and not before, the King has been pleased to consent to my Lord Harrington being Lord-lieutenant of Ireland : there has been a very unfortunate contest between the Duke of Dorset and my Lord Harrington. I have all regard and friendship for the Duke of Dorset ; but the present circumstances of the administration were such, that the appointing Lord Harrington was the only means to preserve unanimity and harmony, especially in that part of it which is the nearest and the most essential to me ; and I am

1746. persuaded that every body that considers this state of the case will see that it was impossible for me to do otherwise than I have done. I hope every thing will go on well. Nothing will contribute so much towards it as your Grace's weight with us all. I shall always endeavour to deserve the continuance of your friendship and good opinion, and am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. STONE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Whitehall, November 8. 1746.

My Lord,

I am ordered by my Lord Duke of Newcastle, to give your Grace this trouble upon a subject on which he would be very glad (if possible) to know your Grace's opinion, before any final resolution be taken. The troops under Lieutenant-general St. Clair are, it is hoped, long before this time safely arrived at Cork and Kinsale, where (as your Grace very well knows) it was proposed they should remain during this winter, in order to proceed early in the spring to North America.

But as it was alleged that on many accounts it would be more advisable that these troops should winter in England, and that they might as easily go from hence to North America as from Ireland, orders were sent to meet them at sea, and to bring

them to Plymouth, instead of Cork and Kinsale: 1746.
and those orders having missed them, it is now proposed that directions should be sent for them to return immediately to England from their quarters in Ireland; but no determination is yet taken upon it. One great reason for bringing them to England is the repeated intelligence that has been lately received of a design to make some attempt in the winter from France upon part of the King's dominions: though it is to be observed, that Ireland is frequently named as the place where that attempt is most likely to be made, though other advices mention Scotland as well as other parts of this kingdom. Upon the whole, my Lord Duke would be extremely glad if your Grace would be so good as to let him know your opinion upon this point, which will always have great weight with him. He sees strong reasons on both sides of the question, and is himself by no means determined which is the most advisable. The King and the Duke, who I apprehend agree upon this subject, are very pressing that something should be immediately done upon it. But my Lord Duke hopes he may have the satisfaction of hearing from your Grace in answer to this, before any orders are given.

I am, &c. &c.

ANDREW STONE.

P. S. His Majesty will return to St. James's on Tuesday next, and the birthday is to be kept on Thursday next.

1746.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. STONE.

Bath, November 10. 1746.

Sir,

As the Duke of Newcastle does me the honour to desire to know my sentiments with relation to the disposition of the troops that were under the command of Lieutenant-general St. Clair on the coast of Britany, and who are now in their winter quarters in Ireland, I will as shortly as I can explain to you my thoughts on this subject, in order to your laying them before his Grace. You very well know, Sir, my sentiments with regard to the expedition which was intended to have been undertaken this last summer against the French settlements in Canada, and that the postponing the sailing of the fleet and transports with the troops, though but for twenty-four hours, was what I always opposed, as I apprehend the loss of one fair wind at that season of the year might be the means of putting off the expedition to another year, and thereby not only give the enemy an opportunity of throwing succours of all kinds into their favourite colony, but might also damp the ardour of our American colonies, who have almost exhausted themselves by the extraordinary efforts they have made, as well in this as in the preceding year, in order to gain that point which they justly looked upon as their only security; I mean the entire expulsion of the French out of the Northern continent of America. The first of these I flatter myself the enemy have not succeeded in,

as it seems universally allowed Duc D'Enville has not succeeded in the enterprize he went upon, and that his fleet of ships of war and the transports under his convoy have suffered greatly by various accidents. This ill success of theirs will I think in a good measure obviate what I mentioned in the second place, and revive the ardour of our Americans (especially if strong assurances are forthwith given them that they shall be supported with a strong force from hence early the next spring) to pursue their darling project, the reduction of Canada. I have dwelt so long upon this, only to explain to his Grace my reasons for thinking my former scheme as entire as ever, and that a proper exertion of our force early next spring will in all probability, before the end of the summer, strike such a blow to the French maritime force they may never be able to recover; whereas, in all probability, if something of this sort is not done, their maritime power must increase in proportion to the decrease of ours, and how much ours depends on the security of our Northern colonies I think I need not mention, when I say that in all probability we shall meet with success in this enterprize. If it is undertaken, I desire to be understood that I do not mean to make myself answerable for any ill success that may happen by the fault of others that may be employed in this expedition; and without entering into more particulars, I think it right to mention that it appears to me absolutely necessary that both a greater number and better engineers should be obtained if

1746. possible. As I have explained myself so fully with regard to the utility, and I may almost say absolute necessity, of going on next summer with this expedition, in case the war with France should continue so long, I will be much shorter in giving my opinion about the destination of those troops which are just now landed in Ireland. I fear the calling them back to England will not only have a very bad effect, as it must give impressions both in Europe and America that the expedition is laid aside, but will also give the enemy an opportunity of causing it to be laid aside in good earnest, as they will find it an easy matter to cause reports of an invasion to gain ground, especially if they put themselves to the small trouble and expense of assembling a few transports in their ports, and a few troops in their provinces over against us, which expense will be most amply compensated to them by keeping our troops at home inactive, and thereby frustrate a scheme of so great utility to us, and consequently of so great detriment to them. Before I conclude I must mention one thing more, and that is, with respect to the troops themselves; and which is, that I very much apprehend that the so immediate re-embarking troops at this late season of the year, especially as they have been already so much on board, and very lately a good deal harassed with the severe duty they underwent in Britany, may be a great means of ruining the battalions for the present, and thereby incapacitating them from being of any service next year, either in

Europe or America. I have many more reasons to confirm me in the opinion I have now given you; but as his Grace desires my immediate answer, and besides as I am unwilling to take up too much of his time, I shall at present trouble you no farther, and am, &c. &c. 1746.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO ADMIRAL LESTOCK.

Bath, November 11. 1746.

Sir,

I am favoured with yours from Portsmouth, and must beg your leave to take notice, that what you mention in your letter with regard to my giving you a hint of my disapprobation of your appointing a Captain under Captain Cotes whilst you remained at Plymouth was impracticable, as I was in the country and sick in my bed when I received your letter; and I had all the reason in the world to imagine you would be sailed long before any letter of mine could reach you: besides, I should have been very cautious to have interfered in a private letter in an affair on which you say in a great measure the success of the expedition depended, and thereby made myself liable to be blamed for any ill success that might have happened. I am very sorry that any difference should have arisen between you and the Board of Admiralty on this

1746. subject, and can assure you, sir, I did by no means intend what I wrote to you last as a reprimand or censure (as you are pleased to call it) on your general conduct, but only as my disapprobation of this particular step you had taken. I must own myself truly sensible of your kind expressions in your letter towards me, and was very sorry when I found myself obliged to express my dislike of your conduct in this particular.

As it is impossible at this distance from the King's person to give you an answer to the last part of your letter with regard to your being employed next spring, I sent an extract of that part of it to the Duke of Newcastle, desiring him to take his Majesty's pleasure thereon, which I will, as soon as it is signified to me, transmit to you.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD BARRINGTON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, Nov. 13. 1746.

My Lord,

I have been lately for a day or two in the country, and was witness there to a most surprising effect of tar water in a rheumatic case. A woman past sixty was for five or six years so afflicted with the rheumatism, that she was unable to move even a hand, and I saw her walk, having used tar water

a few months, and grows visibly better every day, though now sixty-seven or sixty-eight years of age, and there are great hopes of her entire recovery. I determined to acquaint your Grace with this fact, the truth of which I am certain of, the woman being my gardener's wife, and living in my parish.

The Woolwich, I hope and believe, has escaped. The Severn is said to have fought, some accounts say three, others seven glasses, and to have had six feet water in the hold when she struck. The French men-of-war took none of the convoy, but I fear several of those ships have been picked up in the chops of the channel by a privateer or two cruising there.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

BARRINGTON.

MR. GRENVILLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty Office, November 19. 1746.

My Lord,

I am very sensible that, whilst you are drinking the Bath waters, and are loaded with so many unavoidable correspondents, that I ought not unnecessarily to add to the number. This consideration has induced me hitherto to defer thanking your Grace for the honour of your last letter, which gave me the greatest pleasure, as I had the satisfaction to find that my thoughts in relation to our

1746. expedition had received what I shall always think the highest confirmation, that of your Grace's concurrence, and had been enforced by you in the strongest and clearest manner imaginable. I am convinced that the reasons upon which your opinion is founded must carry along with them the greatest weight, and will have their proper effect in the determination of that measure; but in the multiplicity of public business at this important conjuncture, increased by the meeting of the parliament, and the late incident of a new Secretary of State, it is more than possible that the King's ministers may think that the discussion of every thing that relates to it may be put off for some months, and that there is nothing immediately necessary to be done in it, though your Grace has very properly taken notice that it will be necessary to send to our Northern colonies forthwith the strongest assurances of an effectual support from hence early in the spring. You will think me very desponding, my Lord, when I own that I am not yet quite clear that the French have entirely failed in their attempt upon Acadie; but our late transactions have taught me not to be sanguine, and the same letters which bring the account of M. D'Anville's death all say that notwithstanding the bad condition which their men and ships are in, M. de la Jonquiere is determined to attack Annapolis before he comes home; and if he once gets there, I have no great opinion, from what happened there three years ago, that the place will make much resistance: if that should be

the case, no time should be lost to invite our Northern colonies to dislodge them early in the spring with forces from thence, which we shall otherwise be obliged to do with our regular troops, whose time in that country will be very precious, and who I imagine will not have a moment to spare. This suggestion, ill founded as perhaps it is, added to the unanswerable reasons which your Grace has urged, makes me see the necessity of sending some instructions to our colonies by a sloop without the least delay; but as I hear no talk of any such intention, I could not help taking some notice of it to your Grace: if it is proper, I am sure you will forgive me for troubling you with it; if it is not, I know not what excuse to make for entering into this tedious detail. The address to-day from the House of Commons went very roundly, and at last unanimously. No objection was made to it but from Sir John Barnard, whose objection was, that the Administration speak too moderately in it of the irruption into Provence, and the affairs of Italy. This was endeavouring to outshoot them with their own bow, but at last he gave it up. After this the bill for continuing the suspension of the habeas corpus act for three months was sent down from the House of Lords, and twice read by us. Sir John Cotton opposed the second reading of it very warmly; but nobody spoke on that side but Mr. Sydenham and he, and upon a division they divided but thirty-five. The making good the deficiencies of the civil list, which the King desires in his speech,

1746.

1746. and the other great expenses of the war, will, I am
afraid, take up all the money, and consequently we
shall get nothing for our navy debt, unless we lay
in our claim immediately. Your Grace is the best
judge how far this branch of the public service can
go on with any tolerable credit or frugality without
it. Perhaps my real compassion for the many un-
fortunate people that are affected by it may incline
me to wish it more than the other exigencies of the
government will allow of: this consideration has
withheld me upon saying any thing on this subject
to Mr. Pelham, who I see labours under so many
difficulties to get the money for the service of this
year, that I cannot think of increasing them by any
representation of mine, except upon the utmost ne-
cessity. However, as the bargain for the money to
be raised, and the disposition of it, will soon be
made, I could not help apprising your Grace of the
state of it before it went too far.*

I am, &c.

GEORGE GRENVILLE.

* The remainder of this letter relates to various naval arrange-
ments of no interest.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1746.

Hague, November 24. 1746. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I cannot sufficiently express my gratitude to your Grace for your kindness expressed to me in your last letter, which has entirely set me at ease, and removed all apprehensions I might have of not succeeding in the favourite point of my life; for though I have too much regard for your opinion to declare publicly that I will never get higher than the Admiralty, yet I am very much mistaken with regard to myself if, after I once get there, I shall ever be solicitous to obtain a remove.

Your Grace desires I would inform you when I think I shall be at liberty to supply your place. I wish I could say to-morrow; but I fear, if my returning to England is necessary, that it will be some time before I shall be in a situation to ease you of that trouble, as I have by the last post received credentials to the States, and as I understand from private hands that Mr. Trevor is to be recalled, which leaves me solely intrusted with the King's business here, by which it will be impossible for me to stir till some proper successor is found out: however, your Grace may be assured that as soon as I can solicit my return to England, consistent with prudence or decency, I shall lose no time in endeavouring to effect it, as both my inclination and my interest lead me that way. However, it seems to me that to take this thing in one point of

1746. view, my being absent need not be an objection to the conclusion of the affair, as soon as ever Lord Vere can be properly provided for elsewhere, which, for his sake as well as my own, I shall be very desirous of seeing done. His particular behaviour to me has been always very good, and I should deserve the imputation of malice if, in all other points except this, in which he endeavours to stand in my way, I did not wish him success; but in this particular, I do own to your Grace, that if he should be preferred to me I should be the most mortified and disappointed person in the King's service. The method by which I should think this might be managed would be to begin to satisfy Lord Vere elsewhere, and then to appoint me in your Grace's room whenever you think proper to leave this part of the King's business. If I am absent, Mr. Anson will then act as First Lord, and will be agreeable, I dare say, in that station, both to the King and his servants; and upon the footing he and I are together there can, I am persuaded, never subsist any jealousy between us, but, on the contrary, a perfect union both in our private and public designs; for your Grace will easily see that, supposing the Admiralty in this situation, Mr. Anson will have as much of the power of the office while I am at the head of it as he can ever desire, and will be certain, on any accident that should happen to me (for I will never suppose the possibility of a remove), to step into the post without the least difficulty; and I have no doubt that he can have any objection to

acting with me in this capacity, for neither he or any one else can in reality ever consider it as acting under me. I hope your Grace will not be displeased that I have written to him by to-night's post a little upon this subject; but as I think he would have reason to complain of it, I took upon me to dispose of him without his consent, and as his secresy may be depended upon, I have flattered myself that you will not think this step an imprudent one. If your Grace should judge proper to discourse of this matter with Mr. Pelham, or any other of the ministry, I beg you would justify me to them from any thought of my looking towards this office at present as an addition to my income, and as a design to monopolise two considerable salaries. I assure your Grace that is quite out of the question with me: the only reason of my thinking of it at present is, that as I know things of this nature are never done but upon particular opportunities, I think, if some step is not taken now, the opportunity may possibly be lost; what I mean is, that with your Grace's support, with the probability of the approbation of the two Secretaries of State, the Chancellor, and Mr. Pelham, and, I hope, the certainty of the King's consent, there are more concurring circumstances in my favour than, perhaps, may ever meet again. The only obstacle is the difficulty of breaking the matter, and finding a proper employment for Lord Vere, which I should hope might not be impracticable, during the interval of Mr. Anson's being at sea; which, if it is effected,

1746. your Grace may, I think, see the whole in a situation to be settled whenever my friend returns to his seat at the Board.

As I hear the Parliament is likely to meet in a few days, and as it is possible this session may not be absolutely so quiet as the last, I should take it as a favour if your Grace would trouble yourself with my proxy, and would order the clerk of the House of Lords to send over a blank for my signature. I shall always think my conscience in safe hands when it is at your Grace's disposal, as there is no end to the attachment with which

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. GRENVILLE.

Bath, November, 24. 1746.

Dear Sir,

I agree with you in all your reasonings, in your letter of the 19th instant, with regard to the necessity of determining immediately whether the expedition designed against Canada shall proceed early in the spring, in order to be beforehand with the enemy, as well in recovering what possibly we may have lost this year (I mean Annapolis Royal) as in attacking them in their own settlements on the river St. Lawrence. I am likewise sensible, that in case it should be determined to go on with

1746.
this expedition, that it is absolutely necessary to dispatch a sloop forthwith, with orders to the several governors on the Continent, to assure, in his Majesty's name, their respective assemblies that a considerable force, both of troops and ships, shall be sent from hence to North America as soon as the season of the year will permit, in order to attempt the reduction of Canada, and, at the same time, to require the several governments to furnish their quotas for this expedition; but the day before yesterday I received a letter from the Duke of Newcastle, with an account that (notwithstanding all the arguments I had made against it in my letter to him of the 10th instant, and of which I enclosed you a copy) it was determined unanimously in the cabinet council to order the troops, late under the command of Lieutenant-general St. Clair, and now in Ireland, to return immediately to England. I must own this has thoroughly convinced me that the intended expedition is entirely laid aside, as I cannot possibly conceive that a determination could be taken to remove these troops, harassed as they were, at such a season of the year as this, without there was an absolute necessity for so doing in order for a defence of this country against a French invasion. If that is the case, and troops cannot be spared at present from Scotland for that purpose, I must own I see no probability of their being spared early enough next spring, to permit these troops to go on this expedition with any prospect of success; and, besides, these troops, by their continual embarka-

1746. tions, would be so harassed, that they would hardly
— be fit for this service, which, I think, particularly
requires troops to be complete and in good health,
as there is no possibility of recruiting them in North
America.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, November 28. 1746.

My dear Lord,

I wrote a long epistle to your Grace a long time ago, but as no fresh matter has since occurred to me in the serious or ridiculous world which I thought could either entertain or inform you, there seemed to me no good reason for writing to you, especially as I know, without my letters, you must have more reading than is quite regular and consistent with a course of Bath waters. The grand phenomenon in politics which happened about a month ago was preceded by no signs and tokens, as convulsions and revolutions both in state and nature generally are, at least by none which came to my knowledge; if it had I should certainly have prepared you for it, so that the event should not have surprised you in the manner which I take for granted it did. I believe it has been fully explained

to your Grace since; and the best thing I can say of it now is, that such accommodations have been used for the satisfaction of both parties, that none of the bad consequences will follow which honest men might have apprehended from it, and the common enemy certainly wished. 1746.

Your 40,000 seamen for the service of the fleet were moved and granted yesterday; something, more in the nature of discourse than of debate or opposition, passed upon the occasion, during the course of which your Grace's administration of the navy was not only treated civilly, but even commended on all sides, and the result upon the whole, I think, will be of benefit to the service and the public: it was that some day in the session should be appointed to take the debt of the navy into consideration, when I dare say it will appear that the cause is not owing to mal-administration, but to that which occasions all our other debts—a larger plan of war than we have money to make good. When this is the case, and yet the plan cannot be contracted without submitting to France, I should hope the next consideration (and a very proper one it is for Parliament) will be to find some expedient for easing that most intolerable burthen—the *debt of the navy*.

Mr. Pelham, who sees and feels the weight of it, has had it much in his consideration, and, I believe, has thought of the only expedient which can have any considerable effect; which is, to get a part of it

1746. taken into the S. S. Company by way of increase to their capital, as has been practised heretofore. But this is a secret I should not dare to tell to any man living but yourself. For as it cannot be put in execution till after the supplies of the year are raised, or beyond all doubt, so neither should it be suspected, or get the least wind, for fear of any bad effect it may have upon the raising those supplies. This I should think the only method that can give any sensible and substantial relief; and I can assure your Grace I would give the utmost assistance that could lie in my very little power towards making this scheme as extensive as possible, notwithstanding I am myself a proprietor of between 2000*l.* and 3000*l.* of navy bills, which were bought at a much less discount than is now upon them, under the expectation of 5*l.* per cent., which must upon this plan be subscribed at 4*l.* But it is highly fit that they should. I have had some correspondence with Mr. Butcher of late days upon the subject of the lease for New Park, which is referred to the surveyor-general of the land, and, I believe, will soon be concluded. He likewise produced to me one Mason, whom you once mentioned to me as a proper subject for a small place in the customs, and we have had the good fortune to get him made a preferable weigher, which will comfort him for the present, and, I hope, lead him to a better income in time. Give me leave to add my compliments to the Duchess, and sincere wishes that the Bath water may put you out of the reach of all future

Rheumatisms; for I hear it has agreed well with you, 1746.
and hope you won't quit it rashly.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

MR. GRENVILLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

December 1. 1746.

My Lord,

I received your Grace's obliging letter enclosing one to me in favour of my brother the **Captain**, for which I give you a thousand thanks. By what we hear from Bridport, I should hope he would meet with success there, if he has only a subject to contend with; but it is given out that an *unlimited credit* has been sent down to that place, and that Mr. Drax, secretary to H. R. H., carries it. The person in whose behalf it is to be exerted is Colonel Madan, one of the Prince's equerries. If this should be the case to the extent that it is reported (which I can't believe till I see the effects of it), to be sure my brother will be defeated, as it will then be no match: however, be that as it may, I am sure he will always remember with infinite pleasure that he had the honour of your Grace's good wishes and recommendation. Our expedition, as your Grace rightly judged in your last letter to me, seems to be at an end, though a friend of ours, whom you saw at Bath, has made the strongest remonstrances

1746. upon that subject, but, I believe, in vain, unless, perhaps, the additional weight of your representations should give new life to it. I spoke to Mr. Pelham upon the subject of the navy debts, and stated to him, as fully as I could, the inconveniences that must unavoidably follow, if a considerable sum of money is not granted towards it this year. I told him that you had written to me upon this subject, and desired me to speak to him upon it. He seemed very sensible of the difficulties that part of the service laboured under, and said that he had often considered them in the most serious light, and had turned his thoughts to a remedy which, he said, he would explain to us when your Grace comes to town, and which I fancy, by what he threw out, is to make a fund for part of the debt, as by that means the going to market to borrow so much more money, which I find is what he is very apprehensive of, will be prevented. When I mentioned to your Grace Commodore Smith's application to succeed Mr. Davers at Jamaica, I can say, with great truth, that I knew not a word of any promise or engagement to Rear-Admiral Mayne for that station, nor, indeed, had ever heard of any intention of sending him thither, except from common report, for which I did not know there was any good foundation. I find, upon inquiry, that Lord Vere and the rest of the Board here were in the same situation; but after having laid it before you, to be sure the Board will not think of doing any thing in it till you come to town, when your Grace will be better able

to judge what is proper to be done in it. We are 1746.
 in hourly hopes of good news from Mr. Anson; I
 most heartily wish it, because the service wants it
 upon many accounts. We have signed the warrants
 to-day for the several promotions in the yards in the
 manner that they are proposed in your letter to Lord
 Vere. I hope the Bath waters have been of as much
 use to your Grace and the Duchess of Bedford as I
 wish; if they have, we may flatter ourselves that
 your stay there will not be much longer: in our
 present situation there are many reasons to wish
 to see your Grace in town, but none so strong as to
 see you perfectly recovered, which nobody can re-
 joice in more than &c. &c. &c.

GEORGE GRENVILLE.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Yarmouth, at sea; Ushant, bearing E. by S. 13 leagues.
 Dec. 1746.

My Lord Duke,

If there is any thing to be met with upon
 the sea that is good for nothing, it certainly comes
 in the way of my squadron. The Mercury, hos-
 pital ship, which is an old French sixty-gun ship,
 fell in with us this morning. As I saw she was large,
 I was in hopes she had been one of D'Anville's
 squadron. She parted company with them a few
 days after they sailed from Chebattan, which they

1746. left the 23d of October N. S. As she sails extremely well, and her rendezvous was for Brest, I hope her companions are astern of her, and may, if we are in luck, fall into our hands. I have lost two privateers of between 20 and 30 guns, for want of some clean ships or frigates of force. I had the mortification to see the Weazle beat to pieces by one of them, and no ship of the squadron could get up to her assistance. If your Grace had seen Lieut. Campbell's behaviour, he would not stand in need of my recommendation for preferment: he made three attempts to get upon the privateer's bow, and lay him athwart the hawse; but she was of so much superior force, that she shot his mast, sails, and rigging all to pieces. The next morning the ships that pursued the chase picked up the sloop with her topmast gone, and a signal of distress out: she is in tow of one of the ships that has not joined me; when she does, I shall put Captain Barrington into her, but I imagine she must be sent into port to refit. I have no clean ship or frigate with me; therefore desire that one of each may be sent with the men of the squadron sent in with the Mercury, for we are short of complement, and our men begin to fall down. It blows hard, and I am impatient to get rid of the hospital ship, which is an incumbrance to me.

I am, &c. &c.

G. ANSON.

P. S. The French attempted nothing in America: indeed, they were reduced to the last extremity by

sickness; the companies of 120 soldiers were reduced to 49. 1747.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, Jan. 7. 1747.

My dear Lord,

As no mails are come in, I have no foreign news to trouble your Grace with. The accounts which the Admiralty have had you will have received from thence. I would not, however, omit acquainting your Grace with every thing material that happens at home. Since I had the honour to see you, I have talked very seriously, and in the best manner I could, to the King, upon the necessity of gaining, if possible, the King of Prussia, and removing any jealousy he may have conceived of the designs of the Queen of Hungary against him, and doubts about the conduct of the maritime powers upon such an event. I succeeded better than I had ever done before, or, indeed, than I could have expected; and thereupon Lord Chesterfield has prepared a draft of instructions for the minister who is to go, which were considered the night before last by his Lordship, my Lord Chancellor, my brother, and myself; they are as strong and as proper as is possible. They will this day be laid before the King, and I hope they will be approved. Amongst

1747. other things, the King of Prussia is to be assured that England and Holland will stand by him *against any power whatever* (which words I added to make it the more clear) that should attempt to disturb him in his possession of Silesia, &c. This is as much as can be said, and I hope will have its effect. I believe Mr. Villiers will be thought the most proper person to be employed upon this great and important occasion. When this affair was over the other night, we talked in general of the conditions of peace to be agreed with our allies. Those of mutual restitution, mentioned in the Prince of Orange's secret remarks, were approved without any reasoning upon them. The points that were chiefly talked over were those relating to Dunkirk and Furnes, and the establishment for D. Philip. The first, viz. Dunkirk and Furnes, were, to my great joy and satisfaction, given up as being improper to be yielded to. As to that of the establishment, we had some difference of opinion. It seemed to be the sense of my three colleagues, that in all events that should be yielded to, if insisted upon, as it will be by France; whereas my opinion was and is, that the giving an establishment or not to France and Spain, for a general pacification, should depend upon the condition we shall be in, by our armies in Flanders and Italy, to resist the forces of France, and prevent their making themselves absolute masters of the republic of Holland, which, I would yet flatter myself, may be done with success. However, we shall certainly know our strength and our weakness long before

this negotiation of peace can be concluded. These 1747.
 are the only points of consequence depending, upon
 which no resolution is yet taken, or as I hope will
 be, before the opinion of the rest of the King's ser-
 vants is also known.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
 BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, Jan. 14. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter, and
~~am~~ very much obliged to you for your goodness to
~~Mr.~~ Omney. I have another favour to beg of your
 Grace, which I have taken the liberty to put down
 in the enclosed note. The person, Lieut. Russel, has
 a very good character, and poor Mr. Legge was so
 good as to take him with him, with an intention to
 prefer him. He is a particular friend to one of the
 most considerable dissenters in Sussex, which obliges
 me to be much concerned for him. As the letters
 which I received last Sunday from my Lord Sand-
 wich are very material, and, I think, much more
 favourable than the former, I take the liberty to
 send them to your Grace, by which you will see
 Lord Sandwich's opinion entirely agrees with ours
 relating to Prussia. I also send your Grace my

1747. answer, which I hope you will approve, especially what relates to Lord Sandwich's proposal of going to Prussia. That affair, like every thing else, stands still, though the instructions have been unanimously agreed and approved by the King: the person is not yet fixed, and it is hard that the whole load must lie upon me. I also send your Grace the letters I received the other day from Mr. Keene, and would submit a thought to your Grace, which I have not yet mentioned to the King, or to my Lord Chesterfield and my brother. I am afraid we shall not be able to conclude any separate peace with Spain; but might it not be proper to have a person of confidence at Madrid, to take hold of any favourable occasion that may offer, either in case the war should continue, or a general peace should be made. In the first case, I am persuaded Spain will be soon weary; in the next, if a general peace is made, it would be right that the interests of Spain should not be entirely managed by France. The person I would suggest is my Lord Fane, who might go without a character, and take one when it is proper. I don't find there is any thought of sending another plenipotentiary to the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle. The town is very full of Lord Chesterfield's intention to resign the seals. I hope it is without any foundation, for it would be a most unfortunate circumstance if it should happen. I have been a little more alarmed within these three days, by something that my Lord Gower has dropped to my brother and my Lord Clarendon. Every thing

remains in the same unsettled way that it has been 1747.
 for some time ; and, indeed, there is no adminis-
 tration, and at that rate there will soon be no
 government. I take the liberty to unburden my
 thoughts always to your Grace with the utmost
 freedom, and I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, April 4. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I was ordered by his Royal Highness the Duke to acquaint your Grace that he may probably have occasion for the service of a couple of bomb vessels soon after the beginning of the campaign, and that he should be glad to have two such vessels in readiness at Sheerness, that they may come over upon immediate notice. However, as the preparation of these vessels, if their destination is known, may prevent the execution of the purposes for which his Royal Highness intends them, he desires your Grace would order them to be fitted with as little noise as possible, and under some other pretence; and I believe, for my own part, nothing would contribute so effectually to the secrecy of this transaction, as the acquainting only our friend Anson of the real use for which they are designed, since I fear all our brethren are not equally cautious.

1747. His Royal Highness left the Hague on Friday, and will, I hope, be in the field at the head of a very fine army of at least 110,000 effective men in less than a fortnight. Marshal Saxe is arrived at Brussels, from whence we may expect that it will not be long before the French will be in motion, though I flatter myself they will be neither equal to him in numbers or in goodness.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. LYTTLETON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Cleveland Court, April 16. 1747.

My Lord,

I have just received a letter from Mr. Fox who tells me he has his Majesty's commands for notifying my commission. I cannot help repeating my acknowledgments to your Grace for a favour so very essential to my fortune, for the which I am solely indebted to your goodness. It shall be the pleasure of my life to endeavour to deserve the continuation of your favour and protection, and to approve myself upon all occasions with the warmest gratitude and respect.

RICHARD LYTTLETON.

1747.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, April 21. 1747.

My dear Lord,

Though I conclude your Grace must have had general and perhaps particular accounts of the great news that came yesterday from Lord Sandwich to Lord Chesterfield, I cannot, however, avoid troubling you with my congratulations upon an event of such infinite importance to this country, as that which has happened in Holland. The States of Zealand, after their declaration of the Prince of Orange to be their Stadtholder, acquainted the members of the States of Holland with it. The town of Rotterdam declared him also their Statholder on Saturday last, and sent a deputation to the Hague to desire the rest of the province of Holland to do the same: they answered at first, that they must have the consent of their towns. The mob rose, and grew very turbulent, demanded to have the Pensionary and M. ——— delivered unto them. M. Bentinck came out and assisted the populace, assuring them that the Prince of Orange should be declared Stadtholder on Wednesday next; and it was immediately agreed to choose the Prince of Orange Stadtholder, which will be unanimously done to-morrow. The Pensionary was carried to M. Bentinck's house in Bentinck's coach, to protect him from the mob; and it is to be hoped that this great event will be finally concluded without any

1747. further difficulty or inconvenience. And a great event it is for this country and all Europe; for by it, in all probability, the republic of Holland will recover its ancient weight and strength, and England have a useful friend and ally instead of a jealous, timid, and burthensome neighbour. Our negotiation with Macanas* is not yet brought to perfection, though I doubt not but this event in Holland will remove all the difficulties. Macanas said he was not yet at liberty to sign, without either an establishment agreed for Don Philip, or keeping [*illegible*] till that establishment was effected; but he seemed to think he should be soon authorised to sign without it. The news from the East Indies I doubt is true, though I have not yet seen any of the directors; that is the only unfortunate circumstance that at present attends us.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

LORD FANE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

London, May 7. 1747.

My Lord,

I am just going out of town in order to set right as much as may be in my power the matters in Berkshire, strangely confused, and to the preju-

* Private agent for Spain, at Breda.

dice of the government, by Mr. Pelham's having 1747.
 hearkened too much to silly or interested people
 there. As I took an opportunity of saying all that
 I judged significant upon this affair, or upon any
 thing relating to myself, I give your Grace this
 trouble to avoid you a farther, which you were
 pleased to promise me to take in speaking to him,
 that will not be necessary now; but if I may ven-
 ture to take this occasion (without being thought
 very liable to making sure of the friendship of them
 that do one so much honour by that alone as yours
 has done me), I would request of your Grace, if you
 hear of the Bishop of Peterborough's death, to put
 the Duke of Newcastle in mind of the promise he
 made to a parson of mine of one of his livings. My
 face is now turned towards retreat, where I shall
 remain a very hearty wellwisher to whatever your
 Grace may wish, which in any situation is all that
 has been, or would probably ever be, in my power.

I am, &c.

FANE.

EARL OF SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, May 19. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I received a few days ago the enclosed letter
 from M. Du Theil, desiring a passport for a French
 consul going from Leghorn to Alexandria, in

1747. Egypt. I apprehend that your Grace's determination will decide the propriety of complying with that request; and it may perhaps be some inducement to your Grace to settle it according to his inclination, to know that he has been very obliging to me upon some such occasions, particularly in procuring passports for Lord Monson's sons to travel through France whenever they shall think proper to set out from Geneva.

I am in great hopes that I shall soon have the honour of paying my duty to your Grace in England, for I can never foresee a time when I can more easily be spared than at present. The great change of affairs in this country in our favour puts us out of any apprehension of danger; and I own I think a little delay in our negotiations with France, if they are to be continued, could not but be attended with good consequences, as it would give time for our military operations, and the vigorous measures which the republic is now ready to engage in, to make their impression, and I am sure it will add great weight to our negotiations if we set out at a time when our affairs are in a prosperous situation; besides, the Prince of Orange's absence in Zealand renders me at present entirely useless, and I have his consent and approbation of my voyage to England.

Your Grace will, I dare say, be very glad to hear that nothing can have had a better effect than the behaviour of this Prince at his first setting out. He has acted like a man of great capacity in the several

public harangues he has made upon his introduction into the different colleges, and has conducted himself besides in private with so much prudence that he has gained the hearts of the whole nation. 1747.

I have desired Leveson to send your Grace a copy of Count Bentinck's speech upon his presenting the Prince to the Council of State. There is no attempt at oratory in the performance, but I think there are some truths not ill told; and it will serve to show your Grace the sort of language that people may venture to talk here at present. I beg my compliments may be made acceptable to the Duchess, and am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Dated on board his Majesty's ship the Prince George,
May 11. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

I know your Grace will have great satisfaction in hearing that any thing is done to the disadvantage of the enemy, and especially that it has fallen to the lot of one who has long been patronised and honoured with your friendship; and therefore the 3d of May gave me the most sensible pleasure I ever felt, when I came up with a squadron of French ships, consisting of five ships of the line, and two frigates of 44 guns. They were going

1747. upon two expeditions, one to India, the other to America, and would have done much mischief to this country if they had succeeded, which is effectually prevented, having now in my possession the five largest men-of-war, and four of their richest India ships; and am in great hopes that the Yarmouth, Monmouth, and Nottingham, which I detached to pursue their transports and merchant ships, which are 30 in number, will destroy them all. The enemy's ships behaved well; but I could plainly perceive that my ships made a much hotter fire, and much more regular than theirs, when they had a superior number, which they had in the beginning, before the ships in the rear could get up. Your Grace will be much concerned to hear that Captain Grenville* died an hour after his leg was cut off above the knee: he was by much the cleverest officer I ever saw. Boscawen got a shot in the shoulder, but is almost well; his behaviour in the action pleased me, and I hope your Grace will make him a rear-admiral. As the *Defiance* is vacant, I should be obliged to your Grace if you would give her to Captain Bentley, who has been my captain this cruise, and is very deserving of a cruising ship. How cordially have I cursed the Dutch, who, I find (by the French general Jonquière), prevented his whole fleet falling into my hands the last winter, when he came from Chibaton by one of their vessels, informing him he was within 20 leagues of me, and must

* Youngest brother of Richard, Earl Temple.

see me the next morning, upon which he altered his course, and steered for Rochfort. However I have caught him at the rebound, and ought to be satisfied, but wish he had had a little more strength, though this is the best stroke that has been made upon the French since La Hogue; and I am pleased that something has been done by the fleet whilst your Grace has presided over us; and if you quit us, which I never think of without uneasiness, Lord Sandwich will come to a Board not quite sunk in its credit. He is the only person in the kingdom, after your Grace, that I will serve under: if he continues there seven years, and I live as long, I will never quit him, for I esteem him much. There was 200,000*l.* in specie on board the French ships, and they say the equipping these expeditions cost a million and a half sterling. The Invincible is a prodigious fine ship, and vastly large; I think she is longer than any ship in our fleet, and quite new, having made only one voyage. I hope the Duchess is dismissed from her office of private secretary, and that you both enjoy as perfect health and happiness as is the wish of, &c. &c.

1747.

G. ANSON.

P. S. If your Grace has no commands for me at Portsmouth, I should be glad to wait on you in town. I send my old acquaintance Captain Dennis express with these letters; he began the action in the Centurion, and behaved extremely well in it after his topmasts were shot away.

1747.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

May 15. 1747.

My Lord,

I was exceedingly concerned that I could not wait on your Grace last night at council. I desired Mr. Stone to make my excuse. The House of Commons was not up till past nine o'clock, and then I had a number of Scotch gentlemen to dine with me, whom I believe your Grace thinks it would not have been proper to disappoint of a dinner. I received a letter from Admiral Steuart to the same purport with your Grace's: I shall return him an answer this night or to-morrow; and, when I have the honour to see your Grace, will explain the whole to you. The state of the affair is this:—Mr. Doddington and I have agreed to nominate two persons each; Mr. Doddington would not name Mr. Steuart for one of his, and I did not see the necessity of my naming him for one of ours. Doddington, therefore, made the best excuse to him he could, and I must own, in my sense, not an improper one. For, during these three or four years, Mr. Steuart has had a command at Portsmouth which has kept him from attending parliament as much as if he had been in the West Indies; besides, to whom does he belong? Not to your Grace, otherwise than as his profession obliges him; and as to your humble servant, I have no knowledge of him but what was acquired by House of Commons acquaintance.

I am, &c. &c.

H. PELHAM.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1747.

Esher Place, May 16. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I can't avoid congratulating your Grace upon the great success of Mr. Anson's fleet; the Admiral did me the honour to write me a short account of it. Six French men-of-war, four of the richest India ships taken, their lieutenant-general, officers, &c. now in his possession; and, upon the whole, a total defeat of their projects both in India and America, is an event which no one could have expected, and seems reserved for the fortunate and able hand of our friend Anson. It gives me double pleasure that this providential stroke has happened during the time of your presiding where you are: may it give you spirits and resolution to continue for your honour, though not for your ease; and, above all, for the service of your country, and the benefit of your friends; in which number give me leave to rank myself, as

I am, &c. &c.

H. PELHAM.

ADMIRAL WARREN TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Portsmouth, May 18. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

My very good friend Mr. Anson, by whom I intended this should have kissed your hand, will

1747. have informed your Grace of the success that attended our cruize ; but as I very well know his modesty will not suffer him to acquaint you, at the same time, that it was owing under God to his own good conduct as an officer, I cannot in justice to his high merit avoid doing it, though I run the greatest risk of disoblighing him in so doing, unless I can prevail on your Grace (which I earnestly beg I may) not to mention what I write on this head. In my life I never served with more pleasure, nor saw half such pains taken to discipline the fleet: while I have the honour to continue in it I will endeavour to follow his example, however short I may fall of it; and wish to be commanded by him rather than command myself. He has left me here to hasten the equipment of the squadron, which I hope to do to your Grace's and his satisfaction: since I find there strict orders to the Navy Board and Commissioner Hughes to give them all possible despatch, and as I shall in three or four days have done every thing in my part that can in any shape contribute thereto, I must beg your Grace's permission to go to town for a very few days to settle my private affairs, which shall never interfere to the prejudice of the public.

I shall, while I breathe, retain a most grateful sense of the favour done me in your Grace's intention, communicated to me by Mr. Anson, to provide for my family's safe return hither from New York, which is the only thing that can complete my happiness upon this earth. Mr. Anson knows Mrs. War-

ren, and from that knowledge must conclude me 1747.
 miserable, as I really am, by her and my children's
 absence. I must beg your Grace's pardon for the
 liberty I take in troubling you with my little affairs,
 which I have not the least right to do, unless I can
 claim it from that high respect and regard with
 which I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

P. WARREN.

I must do Mr. Boscawen the justice to say, and
 dare believe Mr. Anson will join in it, that he took
 the advantage his situation in the line of battle gave
 him against the enemy with great resolution.

Our country has lost a fine young officer in Cap-
 tain Grenville, whose fate is greatly lamented by all
 who knew him: what a pity it is the brave can die
 but once to serve their country!

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, June 4. 1747.

My Lord,

As I could not have the honour of waiting
 upon your Grace in town, I am under the necessity
 of giving you this trouble to acquaint your Grace
 that his Majesty has been graciously pleased to ap-
 point me a baron of the Court of Exchequer. I have
 not yet had the honour to kiss his Majesty's hand;
 but as soon as that is done I can no longer hold the

1747. place I now enjoy under your Grace, of counsel to the Admiralty; but there is another along with it, which is quite independent of that, and will not so immediately be vacated till your Grace is pleased to sign a warrant to my successor, which will supersede mine: what I mean is auditor to Greenwich Hospital; and the favour I have to beg is, that your Grace will be so good as to let me hold that till Midsummer, the 24th of this month, which will give me time to finish the accounts brought in during my time; which, indeed, is no more than I allowed to Baron Clarke, my predecessor, though they were passed by me: but as his promotion was pretty sudden this matter was not considered then, and both my warrants were passed on the same day that he was appointed a judge.

I am, &c. &c.

HENEAGE LEGGE.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Bath, June 12. 1747.

My dear Lord,

The many ouvert acts of favour and partiality which your Grace has been guilty of towards your humble servant, leave me no room to doubt whether it will be agreeable to you to hear that I have perfectly recovered my health. I have now entirely got the better of the ungentlemanlike habit I

brought out of town with me, and which that great naturalist my Lord Bacon peremptorily declares to be the constitution of fools only. In order to give your Grace a specimen of the first fruits of my recovery to a sound mind, as well as body, perhaps it may not be amiss to condole with you upon the great havock which the present rains must unavoidably occasion amongst the race of partridges; and as I take expedient and resource to be one of the clearest indications of strong faculties, permit me, for the sake of my own credit, to recommend to your Grace the sending out a powerful squadron of umbrellas into the park and adjacent fields of Woburn, which, if properly stationed, will not only prevent the addling of many unborn partridges, but save the lives, also, of those who have already seen the face of daylight. After having given your Grace this testimony of my recovery from a state of weakness and nonsense, I might, without danger to my character, condescend to subjects of a more trifling nature: such as the state of peace and war; the return of Lord Sandwich; the pleasure it must give your Grace to have accomplished the rewarding of Mr. Anson* according to his merits and your own wishes; the dissolution of Parliament; and many other merry conceits of the like public and political nature. But as I take these idle subjects to be better adapted to the gaiety of common conversation than to the wisdom and solemnity of let-

* His elevation to the peerage as Baron Anson of Soberton.

1747. — ter-writing, I shall reserve them till I have the honour of seeing your Grace in town, which I propose to do by the middle of next week. In the meanwhile I have nothing to desire but that my very best respects may be tendered to the Duchess of Bedford, and that your Grace will continue to believe me, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, July 22. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I have the pleasure to acquaint your Grace that M. Ossorio brought me this morning a letter which he had received from the King of Sardinia, with an account of a great and most surprising victory gained over the French; the particulars your Grace will see in the enclosed paper, printed by authority. The King of Sardinia says that now if the Austrians will do their part, they will not only resist the French force, but endeavour to make a diversion which may be favourable to our affairs in Flanders. He had an account of the overture of Marshal Saxe, but hopes France will not gain by *negociation* what they are far from being able to gain by *force*. Ossorio has a letter

from Chavannes *, dated the day before yesterday, 1747.
which gives a good account of Berg op Zoom. —
He says Prince Warbeck, with 17 battalions and 16
squadrons, was to make the junction as yesterday;
and if that succeeded, they seemed to think Berg
op Zoom secure. Your Grace was in the right
in not giving it up yesterday, as we were disposed
to do. Chavannes seems much against negotiation,
and particularly that the Duke should have a
liberty to negotiate it. He wishes for Lord
Sandwich, who must be detained by the contrary
winds: I have sent him an account of this great
news, which must have the best effect in our
present circumstances. The King is highly de-
lighted.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
 BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, Saturday morning, 11 o'clock,
 July 25. 1747.

My dear Lord,

This moment the messenger is come in
from the Duke: all I know of it is this short letter
from Mr. Chetwynd. I have a short letter from

* Agent for the King of Sardinia at Breda.

1747. H. R. H., I think, very pacific; he says only, that Marshal Saxe's answer is either the frankest or falsest he ever met with. I suppose we shall deliberate upon this great affair on Monday night, and therefore I should be very glad if your Grace would be so good as be in town by Monday noon. The Dutch mail has not come in: the messenger says it was reported at Helvoetsluys that the siege of Berg op Zoom was raised, but that is not to be depended upon. The Duke seems to have the utmost contempt for the Dutch troops, and thinks no dependence can be had upon them.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

P. S. Poor Sandwich, I fear, is still detained in the river.

The Dutch mail is now come in. Things looked well at Berg op Zoom, especially if P. Waldeck's corps gets in, as was expected. I will do my utmost to obey your Grace's commands about the living.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, August 1. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I thought your Grace might not dislike to hear what has been the result of all our conferences

this week, though I am afraid you will not much approve what has been resolved upon. On Tuesday I found some delay in sending Lord Sandwich to the army, which continued on Wednesday, and the King referred every thing to the meeting that evening. At our meeting it was very strongly proposed that the Duke should have orders to open the outlines of the peace to the French, previously to Lord Sandwich's going to the army to treat. Lord Chancellor and I as strongly opposed it, for the reasons that were urged when your Grace was with us. We thought the best answer to Marshal Saxe's extraordinary letter was, to send Lord Sandwich immediately to treat with Marshal Saxe, under the inspection and direction of the Duke: that was opposed, and when we would not come into their proposal, Lord C. minuted down a draught of an answer, which, he said, was not his proposal, but however every body acquiesces in it. The purport of it is, that as soon as France has explained themselves with precision upon the points, &c., the King will send a minister to *treat* under the inspection of the Duke, and so the answer went last night. The King was entirely of Lord C.'s opinion, your Grace's and mine, as to the proposal relating to the Duke. Your Grace, I am sure, will be surprised to hear that, after all that passed in the closet on Monday, and the positive promise that Lord Sandwich should have the character and appointments of ambassador, when Lord Chesterfield

1747.

1747. brought the credentials to be signed, some little objections as to the appointments, and to the having an ambassador accredited to the States were raised by the King, and the thing could not be done yesterday; but I hope and believe the next trial will get it over. I must do justice to Lord Chesterfield and my brother, that they were equally surprised with myself, and I am sure have no hand in the disappointment. I hope Lord Tavistock and Lady Caroline are quite recovered.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, August 5. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

Upon my waiting on the Duke of Newcastle this morning, I found he had not sent by last night's post the enclosed letter from Lord Sandwich, as he gave it me about twelve o'clock. I shall keep it an hour, till we receive our post letter, to see if there is any news worth sending your Grace. Sir Peter Warren has in his letter, received this morning by express, desired Rear-Admiral Hawke may be ordered to serve under him, and proposes to send him out immediately, to take the command of the ships left in the bay.

The board intend to send an order down by

express, for Rear-Admiral Hawke to put himself under the Vice-Admiral's command. This post has produced nothing worth sending your Grace. We have had nothing from Flushing this two days. The Duke of Newcastle has consented that the eight ships, said by Admiral Medley to be so much out of condition as not to be fit to continue abroad, shall be immediately sent for home: I wish they may arrive before the end of October, for I fear they will not be able to bear the severity of a winter's passage. His Grace says, though you mentioned to him the sending for some of the Mediterranean ships at the time the East India scheme was proposed, he has heard nothing of it since, though it is ten weeks ago. I hope the hooping-cough has left Lord Tavistock and Lady Caroline; if not, change of air is an approved remedy, and, I hope, will bring your Grace nearer the town; for I think the Council Board, as well as the Admiralty, are much the better for your presence.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, August 11. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

The enclosed was received last night; and by the intelligence that came by the last mail,

1747. Bergen-op-Zoom will not be able to hold out above eight days longer, and I think it is thirty-six days to-day since the trenches were first opened: the French have two months good before the winter obliges them to leave the field, and I fear our army is too weak to give them a check in any thing they undertake. Bentinck is arrived, and looks very melancholy upon this bad news. He thinks if the French imagine we shall accept such terms as they offer us, they must be such as will bring ruin both on this country and the republic, and therefore advises to prepare to withstand the enemy another campaign, in order to obtain the better terms of peace. There is a grand council to-night; but I don't think they will finally determine any great point till your Grace comes to town, and therefore I expect to see you here soon. I expect Sir P. Warren at Spithead in a day or two. Admiral Boscawen has all his squadron except the *Vigilant* under his orders; and if she does not come in very soon, one of the third-rates at Portsmouth must be fitted the next spring tide.

The Company say we shall not stay for them, which I doubt. It is strange that we have no account of either our own ships or Admiral Scriver for ten days past.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

1747.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Secret.)

Hague, August 11. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I cannot let this mail go without begging your Grace's most serious attention to the subject of my public letter of this date. I find the Prince of Orange fully persuaded that he is to be abandoned by England, and nothing will remove that suspicion without we agree to continue our preparations for war at the same time that we open our negotiations for peace. If we don't find means to ease him of his present concern, I fear we shall have a new scene of difficulty open itself, which may throw as many obstructions in our way as any event that could possibly happen; for I imagine the danger to those who make a peace will be much increased when that peace is made in direct opposition to the inclinations and public instances of this republic, which will inevitably be the case if the Prince of Orange continues his suspicions. I am sure what I have seen has sufficiently proved the truth of what I have often said while I was in England, that if I had not orders to communicate every thing to the Prince, I could have no power of doing service here, as my credit would be entirely gone, since even with that it will be very difficult to keep things upon a tolerable footing. I

1747. own I see no resource unless we consent to the immediate conclusion for the Russians, and indeed, as he explains that they are to pay half the expense, the charge will not be adequate as a counterbalance to the advantage of engaging the Prince of Orange to consent readily to your entering into negotiation, and to the additional hope we shall have of obtaining by that means better terms of peace, if peace is to be had.

I am sure experience will convince you that those who are of opinion that the Stadtholder is not master of this government, either deceive themselves or talk that language to impose upon others. It is not only from his friends, but from more impartial authority added to my own observation, that I can venture to assure you his power is very well established, and that the republic will be found to speak his language in every thing they say.

As I was going to close this letter M. Bentinck came to me and told me he had determined to set out for England in two or three days at farthest, and desired I would detain the yacht for his passage: this was a favour I could not refuse complying with, and have taken upon me to desire Captain Edwards to stay a day or two longer than he intended, in order to receive him on board; in which I rely upon your Grace's approbation, and that you would not let any but those who will see this letter know that I have interfered about it. Bentinck comes under pretence of family affairs, but his business is, as you may easily imagine, of a political

nature, and arising from the alarm that the communication of my instructions have given in this country. 1747.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, August 14. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

I find by the letters we received from Bergen-op-Zoom this day, that the French do not advance so fast as many imagined, and therefore hope the place may yet hold out longer than the ten days which was the time limited by Lord Chesterfield's correspondents, which time ends to-morrow. Both the armies are in motion, but whether they will bend their course to Bergen is not known; but a private letter from Haske hints as if the Duke had some scheme to attack the French. I am strongly inclined to think his Highness's measures are wise and well considered: God grant he may succeed. Baron Bentinck is extremely desirous to see your Grace, having a great deal to say to you from Lord Sandwich, as well as upon the present situation of our affairs: he was so very anxious, and pressed me so much to write to you upon this subject, that I could not refuse him, and hope your Grace will come to town on Tuesday or Wednesday, as it will

1747. be towards the end of next week before he embarks
for Holland.

* * * * *

I cannot send your Grace any information of the particulars of the Lisbon treaty hinted at in Lord Sandwich's letter, but it was secret, and supposed to be concluded between the Queen of Hungary and the King of Spain, and to relate principally to the agreeing to give a settlement to Don Philip in Italy; it was unknown to us and Sardinia: it is a discouraging circumstance to be thus betrayed by all our allies. Keppel hopes your Grace will give him another ship when he stands clear of the loss of the last.* There is a sixty gun ship at Bussleton, that will be launched about the time his men will be over from France. I shall step into Hampshire this afternoon, and return on Monday.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Powis House, August 15. 1747.

My Lord,

* * * * *

We have wanted the honour of your Grace's company and assistance at our conferences with M.

* The shipwreck of the Maidstone, a narrative of which is given in Mr. Keppel's Life of the Admiral, vol. i. p. 95.

Bentinck. He is in a very reasonable way, and seems to be much satisfied with his Majesty and his servants, as they are with him. No difficulties occur but what arise from the nature and situation of affairs, and those are difficulties indeed. The immediate consideration is how to relieve Bergen-op-Zoom, or, in case it should fall, how to defend the territories of the States. It is impossible to spare troops from hence; and the Dutch, though now in earnest, find great difficulties in hiring troops from other powers towards their own augmentation of 30,000 men. The troops of Munster and Cologne are the nearest and readiest; but that court has such collusive managements for France, that it is not to be depended on. A considerable piece of good news is come to-day from Commodore Michel, that General Baronai and General Trips have defeated the corps under the Count de St. Germain, which was going to reinforce the besieging army. But of this your Grace will have more full information.

I hope your Grace finds your health much improved and established by the country, and am, &c. &c.

HARDWICKE.

1747.

1747.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, August 14. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I beg your Grace's pardon in having been so long without giving you an account of what passes here, but we have been so much taken up since M. Bentinck's arrival, that I have really not had time. I have now the honour to send your Grace all the material letters and papers, which will fully inform you of every thing. My long letter from Lord Sandwich, which was brought by M. Bentinck, will show the situation of things in Holland, and my two letters to Lord Sandwich in answer, will also inform your Grace of what we have done here, and particularly with M. Bentinck, whom I cannot too much commend. His coming is a most fortunate incident, and his behaviour here will, I hope, remove all the little misunderstandings and mistrusts that there were with the Prince of Orange, which I think a most material point; for any coolness with the Stadtholder at this time would make either peace or war very difficult. Your Grace will also see the last paper of M. Saxe and the answer returned to it, and the instructions that are sent to Lord Sandwich for his conduct, in Lord Chesterfield's letter of the 7th instant. Your Grace will have so much to read that it is unreasonable for me to trouble you with a long letter. M. Bentinck immediately upon his arrival inquired

after your Grace. He is very desirous of seeing you: he knows your weight among us, and is most thoroughly persuaded of your right way of thinking. He will stay I believe all next week; and as he will probably have answers in writing to all the points he is charged with, which answers must finally determine our conduct as far as it can be determined at present, I most earnestly desire to have your Grace's advice and assistance before M. Bentinck's return, and therefore, if your Grace would come to town on Monday, or rather on Tuesday, I hope we need not keep you above two or three days. Your Grace's commands about the ships in the Mediterranean were executed immediately; those about Cape Breton are not yet sufficiently determined, but shall be in the course of next week; there is also another reason for pressing your Grace to come to town, since in all probability all the business depending will be then despatched, for Lord Chancellor goes the week after to Wimpole, and Lord Chesterfield I believe to Cheltnam. I have obeyed your commands about the living: your Grace will send Lord Fane word of it. The King looks upon it to be given to you: I was forced to use your Grace's name. Bergen-op-Zoom seems to defend itself well; but I fear it must fall at last if it cannot be relieved, which may be very difficult to do.

I had yesterday a letter from G. Wentworth: the French and Spaniards are hastening back to France.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

1747.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Secret.)

Hague, August 18. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

My public letter of to-day will inform you of my having sent an account to the Duke of the treaty signed at Lisbon. I did not intend to risk that secret at first to the possibility of falling into the hands of the enemy; but as I have since had reason to imagine that some farther progress has been made in the negotiation than what I had an account of in Lord Chesterfield's last despatches, and that the Marechal Bathiani is apprised of all that has passed with the Marechal de Saxe, and that he approves the negotiation, I thought it of the utmost importance that the Duke should be upon his guard against Bathiani, who may possibly gain his Royal Highness' confidence by showing an inclination to forward the treaty with France, when in reality he wishes its conclusion, in order to the carrying into immediate execution the other plan, which it is by no means impossible may have been concerted with the privity of France.

Dayrolles* is set out this morning to visit Bergen-

* British resident to Holland under Lord Sandwich. "This curious minister," says H. Walpole, "has always been a led captain to the Dukes of Grafton and Richmond; used to be sent to auctions for them, and to walk in

the park with their daughters, and once went dry-nurse to Holland with them. He has belonged, too, a good deal to my Lord Chesterfield, to whom I believe he owes this new honour, as he had before made him black-rod in Ireland,

op-Zoom. I think it not at all unlikely that he may have had private intimations from England that he would do well to go upon the spot, which would give authority to any of the desponding accounts he may be inclined to send to Lord Chesterfield: to prevent any such misrepresentations I have prevailed on M. Bellegarde to go along with him, and as he is a very ingenious young man, and has a good knowledge in fortification, the account that he will be able to give me will be much more authentic than any information that can come from the other. 1747.

The States-General have wrote to the King to desire more assistance; and as I believe they are pretty well convinced that not much more can be spared from England, I believe they will be well satisfied, and consider it as sufficient assistance, if the King will agree to take his share of the Russians, which point they seem to have extremely at heart; and I must repeat what I have already said, that if we do not gratify them in it, we shall lose ground here in a very great degree.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

and gave the ingenious reason that he had a black face. I believe he has made him a minister, as one year at Tunbridge he had a mind to make a wit of Jacky Barnard, and had the impertinent vanity to imagine that his authority was sufficient." — *Letters*, vol. ii. p. 190.

1747.

ADMIRAL BYNG TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Boyne, Vado Bay, August 20. 1747.

My Lord,

When I arrived at this place the 16th instant, to take upon me the command of his Majesty's fleet upon the death of Vice-Admiral Medley, the post for Turin was then going out, and I had only time to write two or three lines to Mr. Corbett, to desire he would acquaint your Grace and the rest of the Lords of the Admiralty of my being here; otherwise I should not have failed paying my respects to your Grace, and returning you my thanks for all the honours and favours you have been pleased to do me, especially in this last promotion of shifting my flag to the fore-topmast head.

My Lord, I can only say I am greatly obliged to you, and shall ever endeavour to merit your esteem; and the greatest pleasure I can have in life will be, to be honoured with your Grace's commands: being

Very truly, &c. &c.

J. BYNG.

My Lord, I beg leave to remind your Grace of Mr. Millequet: he is a mighty good young man; and if any thing could be done for him in the marines, you will greatly oblige me.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1747.

Admiralty, August 22. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

I suppose this letter will find your Grace in a high fever after many hours travelling in as hot a sun as ever was felt. The enclosed came about an hour after you left London, and was just in time for the Duke of Newcastle to see it before he set off for Claremont. I own to your Grace that Lord Sandwich's situation appears to me a very disagreeable one; and the secret workings of Lord C. must be the true reason why he has not the rank in his way that his quality entitles him to. As I esteem him much, it gives me great concern to find him uneasy, not more upon his own account than that of the public. If he should decline going on with the negotiation, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to find a man of equal abilities to put into his place; but, perhaps, it may be thought by some that Mr. Dayrolles may do as well. Medley died the 5th of August. Byng was upon a cruize; but as a ship was immediately despatched to inform him of this accident, he will soon return to give proper orders to his squadron. There was great encomiums upon Medley from the King of Sardinia, M. Villette, and the ministers at that court; and I find a strong disposition in his Grace of Newcastle not to think so well of Byng as I am sure he deserves. He talked of Forbes to command in the second post. I told him your Grace would

1747. probably give some directions to the Board upon that head. You saw yesterday what a wretched condition poor Forbes is in in regard to his health: I think it will be very near the same thing as murdering him to send him instantly abroad, though he is extremely desirous to serve. I hope your Grace will, in consideration of the excessive heat of the weather, direct Lord Trentham to get his cargo of small beer ready, that both may be shipped off for Holland immediately after the Lichfield races, to prevent a thirsty minister and his private secretary from perishing.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, August 25. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

I sent the enclosed letter to the King this morning. Our intelligence from Mitchell, which came from the Dutch admiral, says the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom will be raised in four days. Private letters from officers in the Highland regiments mention that their regiments are marching out of the lines to join Shantlow and Swarsenberg's corps in order to attack the besieging army immediately, and don't doubt of success. These different accounts have raised people's spirits so much, that nobody

thinks of our meeting a check: I own I have great expectations that the French will finish this siege with discredit. I had a letter from Lord Sandwich to desire that Mr. Robins be sent over to the Prince of Orange, who intends to employ him as an engineer: I believe he is perfect master of all the theory of that science; how well he will put it in practice I cannot tell. He has an excellent understanding, and great firmness of temper, and therefore I think he will do well. I shall set out for Staffordshire on Thursday evening, and shall be at my brother's on Saturday night: if there is any news your Grace shall have it at Trentham that night.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Secret.)

Hague, August 29. 1747.

My dear Lord,

Though the last despatches I received contained some circumstances personally disagreeable to me, yet I own they gave me altogether the utmost and the most real satisfaction, as they have entirely set to rights every thing that our previous management had thrown into confusion. I believe the Duke of Newcastle will do me the justice to recollect that I said I was sure, if they would give

R

1747. me the materials I wanted, I could answer for the Prince of Orange's acting as we would have him; but that without that I could be answerable for nothing: if I had had these materials when I set out we should have saved the three weeks of uneasiness which we have since had. As to my instructions I like them extremely; and if you determine to adhere to them, and never recede among yourselves, I am far from despairing to get the terms, sooner or later, that are prescribed in those instructions: but irresolution among ourselves will some way or other transpire; and it will be impossible to expect decision in those who treat with us, when they are in daily hopes of our being led by our own uncertain disposition to recede in the most material articles.

We have now the advantage in the negotiation of having brought the Dutch to support all the demands that immediately regard ourselves, not excepting Cape Breton; and they will go on in insisting with us for the absolute cession of that possession on the part of France, as long as we ourselves think it consistent with common prudence to persist in the demand; and I have no doubt (if it is thought proper in England) of engaging the republic to consider the demolition of it as a *sine quâ non*; but you must first (as I hope you will) determine it so among yourselves, and give me orders accordingly: for my own part, unless you take (what I should think still better) the resolution of demolishing it yourselves, according to your

Grace's original proposal, I have no notion of your 1747.
not adhering to that point of demolishing it by
treaty. Whatever we may flatter ourselves to the
contrary, the clamour that will be raised in conse-
quence of any arrangements that may be taken
about that acquisition will, I am certain, have very
great weight in the nation; which, fomented by
those who we know are lying in wait for the first
opportunity of doing mischief, must in the end rob
the administration of their popularity: and I own I
am clear in my opinion that this ministry cannot
stand upon any other foundation. If we gain the
point of the demolition after having been beat out
of the other, I think we shall be able to defend our-
selves upon the supposition of our having made it
useless to the enemy, at least for a time. Without
some refuge of that sort, I own I am apprehensive
that there will be a very bad impression against us.
I don't find that in any of the instructions I have
had any direct notice has been taken of the islands
of St. Lucia and St. Vincent, which is certainly a
matter of no small importance: they don't come
under the description of conquests to be restored, not
having been occupied by us, and so not wrested from
us by force. And under the general description of
renewal of former treaties the French will remain in
possession, and the thing neglected till some time
after the peace; and then we must come to the fatal
result of either leaving them there or beginning a
fresh war to drive them out. I believe, if your
Grace can see this in the light that I do, you will

1747. think it will not be wrong that I should have orders to insist upon their evacuation being particularly specified in any treaty that shall be projected upon the present occasion.

I had the good luck, by being still at the Hague, to prevent Dayrolle's seeing the packet that was sent to him under flying seal. He received his despatches in my presence, and gave it me directly without opening it. When I told the Prince of Orange that if I had been set out for the army Dayrolles was to have communicated those important papers to him, he expressed a good deal of concern, and desired I would endeavour to find some means of preventing any business of real importance from coming to him in that channel, for that he had no opinion that any thing that came to Dayrolle's knowledge would be made the use of that it is to be wished it should. As to myself, now I am upon this topic, I cannot help begging of your Grace that you would find some method or other of extricating me out of the uneasy situation which I am in at present: it is not consistent with the opinion I have of my own condition, to continue at the Hague in a character so little removed from that of Mr. Dayrolles, either in the exterior part or in the point of confidence; and I hope that your Grace will some way or other, upon my return from the army, prevent the continuance of this just cause which I have of complaint. The money, though it is a very necessary consideration for me while I am in this employment, is no sort of inducement to me to

rest satisfied in my present situation : though I have not much, thank God I have enough for a private man ; and I know by experience I can live very contentedly upon it. I thought from the first that the appointment of Dayrolles must have been meant to drive me out of my commission ; and I am sorry to say that I begin to be convinced that it will have the desired effect. I say nothing of this in a private letter which I have wrote to the Duke of Newcastle, because I imagine he may possibly think of showing that letter to some people whom I would not trouble with any of my own personal concerns : but I beg of your Grace to let him know how truly I am obliged to him for all his kindnesses, and particularly for the trouble he has given himself upon this occasion ; and to assure him, that if it had not been for the gratitude I have, and always shall have, for him, I should before this time have rid myself of all uneasiness upon this account. 1747.

As I am now in a style of complaint, let me go on with a complaint against your Grace for not having supplied me with any sea news, particularly the condition and destination of our squadron cruising to the westward, and what is become of Admiral Schryver ; in all which matters I am in an entire state of ignorance. I can for my life find no other pretence for abusing you, so must come to a conclusion, with the assurances of the inviolable truth with which

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

1747. We hear Lord Trentham is coming over, and that
—— he brings with him a ship load of small beer.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, September 8. 1747.

My dear Lord,

In the great hurry I am in, I am sure your Grace will excuse my very short letter. The enclosed will show you how things stand with the French court, and that our negotiation is not likely to come to any thing. Our friend Sandwich has done like an angel. This morning we had an account from Mitchel that Bergen-op-Zoom was taken last Saturday by storm. I should doubt that last circumstance. Every thing is at present undetermined here, except that at all events we must make our greatest efforts. I have sent to my Lord Chancellor to come to town, and hope your Grace will have the goodness to be in town to-morrow or Thursday.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1747.

September 8. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

It is with inexpressible concern that I inform your Grace of Bergen-op-Zoom being taken by storm on Saturday morning, and all the garrison put to the sword: the assault was some hours before daybreak. Poor Speed * met his fate but a few days sooner than it must necessarily have happened to him. This unfortunate event, which has happened ten days sooner than the experienced soldiers expected, has affected every body here extremely. I wish your Grace would come to town: it is necessary your Grace should see the letters sent to Lord Chesterfield from Lord Sandwich, in which it appears very plainly the French only amused you with an expectation of peace, to prevent your preparations for a war; and I think by what one sees both in this kingdom and Scotland, that they are carrying on schemes of the most pernicious kind. If Lord Trentham holds his

* Formerly an officer in the regiment raised by the Duke of Bedford at the time of the Pretender's invasion: he was subsequently appointed to a regiment of the line, and served during the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom. There are several letters from him to the Duke of Bedford describing its progress. In his last letter, dated the 7th of September, he says, "I think I could venture to insure

this place for near three weeks longer, even if Shanlo will do nothing for us." In a letter from Lord Cobham to the Duke is the following:—"For my own part I feel his loss as I should that of a child, as I bred him up, and never found him ungrateful or unobservant of any thing he thought I would have him to do, which is more than most people can say of their nearest relations."

1747. resolution of going over to Holland with M. Bentinck, he must come to town immediately, for he talks of leaving London in three or four days.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

I beg my best compliments to the Duchess, and all the family at Woburn.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Secret and Private.)

Camp at Richelle,
Sept. 14. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

My public despatch by the last post took up so much time, that I could not find a moment to write to you, though I was sorry to let a packet of that importance go, without accompanying it with a private letter.

I cannot say that the surprise I express at the language held by France is very real; I always expected the same behaviour on their part, and was convinced that when they saw they could not hurry us into a peace without our allies, they would despair of bringing matters for the present to a conclusion, which, I think, Puisieux's steadiness in adhering to every point pretty plainly shows.

I do not imagine that it is necessary for me to

say a great deal to you upon the proposal of sending Bussy to England. I wish I could think our interior affairs so well constituted as to be so above the reach of misrepresentation as to admit of an intelligencer of that sort among us. I fear the informations he would give would not be likely to persuade France that we should, at all events, persevere in insisting upon such terms as we can accept with honour and safety ; and unless it was otherwise, surely those who think right would not do well to suffer such an additional weight to be thrown into the scale against them. 1747.

I think if we go to Aix-la-Chapelle in a body, as I suppose we are now likely to do, we shall have reduced the negotiation nearly to the form proposed in the Prince of Orange's paper, which I brought with me to England, and which, I own, I think will be the best system upon which we can possibly act. Will it not, upon this consideration, be proper to carry the whole of that idea into execution, and set out by proposing a plan on our side, which we may mutually engage ourselves to support as far as prudence and future events shall authorise? I can easily foresee that such a project will be attended with a good deal of difficulty, on account of the irreconcilable differences between the courts of Vienna and Turin; but yet I think there will be no harm for me to try, as from myself, whether an idea of that sort can be brought to any consistency; and if I find there is a possibility of our preparing a plan among ourselves, in the form of an answer to

1747. Marshal Saxe's paper of the 5th of last month, I will then endeavour to sketch out something of that sort, and will, without taking the least notice to any one else, send it to you in a mail or two, to be made use of in whatever manner you shall think proper.

Count Fleming, who is gone this morning to the French army, has been informed by me of all that passed in my conference with M. Puisieux. I wish he may be able to persuade them to talk in a more reasonable style, but I own I am very incredulous upon that subject.

His Royal Highness has desired me, the first time I write to your Grace, to put you in mind of Lieutenant Balfour, whom he some time ago recommended to the favour of the Board, having had proofs of his diligence and zeal, for his service in the campaign in Scotland; besides which, he has the advantage of the testimony of Admiral Smith in his behalf.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

September 17. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's letter gave me great satisfaction, as I find by it your rheumatism is not

worse, and therefore hope to see you soon in town. 1747.
Captain Balfour has appeared, and has taken out his captain's commission, which, if he had not, Lieutenant Hanbury should have been appointed, as your Grace directed. I am sorry you are apprehensive of a farther opposition at Bedford: if the breach you lately made there is not sufficient to carry the place by storm, you must do as Lowendal did at Bergen-op-Zoom, and proceed by sapping and bribing. The latter you have been so little used to, that I think you should try your hand now, as you may probably have some occasion for it upon another election. We had letters to-day from Holland. The army at Oudenbosch had been alarmed with an account that the French were in full march to give them battle, which proved false. I had a long letter from Mr. Robins, who thinks the French will end the campaign with their late conquest, and says the heavy artillery are ordered to Louvain; so there ends sieges for the present. I should have sent Robins's letter, but the Duke of Newcastle has got it, who never returns any in less than a week: the French buried 1200 men the day after taking Bergen, and had 1600 prisoners; so that the Dutch lost much the greatest part of the garrison. Lowendal is made a marshal. There is not one line from Lord Sandwich, nor a word of sea news; both the Bentincks are gone, and, I believe, extremely well satisfied.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

1747.

MR. STONE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Whitehall, September 17. 1747.

My Lord,

The mail which was due on Monday last being now arrived, I am directed by my Lord Duke of Newcastle to give your Grace an account of the advices received by it.

Mr. Dayrolles writes from the Hague (my Lord Sandwich not having been arrived there when these letters came away), that the French had undertaken nothing new since the reduction of Bergen-op-Zoom, but that they were under apprehensions for Steenberg and Tholen; which, if attacked, had no other means of defence but inundations; in which they seem to place no great confidence.

As to the loss sustained at Bergen-op-Zoom, Marshal Lowendal, in a letter to General Cronstrom, says that he had buried 1200 men of the garrison, who were killed on the spot; and that he had 1200 prisoners, besides 150 officers; but this account Mr. Dayrolles thinks must be exaggerated. There are no new particulars with regard to the loss of the place; but in general the governor is extremely blamed.

There are letters from H. R. H. the Duke, with an account that Marshal Bathiani has consented to take the command of the troops now at Oudenbosch, and that he is preparing to go thither for that purpose. He proposes to take with him some of his own battalions, and to detach some Dutch

battalions from that corps, to garrison Maestricht. 1747.
Marshal Bathiani's accepting this command gives
H. R. H. great satisfaction. Mr. Cressener writes
very confidently from Liege, that Lowendal will
take Lillo, and then go into winter quarters, and
that Marshal Saxe's army will soon retire into
quarters of cantonment behind the Dyle.

There have been some tumults at the Hague,
but no great mischief done any other way than by
obliging the Prince of Orange (who was preparing
to go to put himself at the head of the army) to
put off his departure for some time.

I am, &c. &c.

ANDREW STONE.

Major-General Bland is appointed commander of
the troops in Scotland.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

September 22. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

The enclosed came from Lord Sandwich by
the last mail, which gives very different accounts
of the intentions of the French: for now it is said
they will not finish their campaign before they are
in possession of Zealand; and it is reported that
when the King parted with Count Saxe, he told his
majesty that though his campaign was ended, his

1747. own was only going to begin. I fear we shall have
 ——— accounts of their having made a great progress
 even by the next mail. Couli Cann is certainly
 murdered, by the contrivance of his nephew, whom
 he had determined to put to death. The country is
 in the utmost confusion, and our new-erected
 company are apprehensive of being ruined. Lord
 Holderness's son's illness is turned to the small
 pox. The sea produces no news, except that the
 beer of the squadron, put on board at Plymouth,
 has all turned sour, and will oblige the ships to
 come in sooner into port; for which the brewers
 should all be obliged to go to sea and drink it. Sir
 Peter Warren is in town, but not determined
 whether he goes to Bath or not.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Secret.)

Hague, September 26. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

Though I have little to add to my public
 letter, yet I would not let this post go without
 mentioning to you in general my sincere desire that
 I may receive instructions upon the footing of my
 despatch of this day's date, which will leave every
 thing here in the best situation imaginable, both

for peace and war. I believe the Prince of Orange insisted more strongly upon our furnishing 70,000 men, on account of the Pensionary's being present; though I think he can't maintain that ground, as Bentinck has, I believe, in his last memorial, expressed himself contented that the republic should pay their proportion of any additional number of troops that could be engaged for the service of the next campaign; though, as I had not that piece by me, and only read it over cursorily the morning I took leave of the Duke, I could not venture to make use of that argument in my yesterday's conference. 1747.

I am a little concerned on account of a private intimation that I have had of Ligonier's having had an interview with Marshal Saxe at Liege, on Sunday last. Things were till then as well as could be wished, in my humble opinion: but I can be answerable for nothing, if my friend (whom out of negotiation I most truly esteem) can find means to represent things in the light he sees them, (I mean to France, for I don't fear his representations elsewhere,) which, I own, is very different from the view in which I consider them.

I am impatient to hear the result of the conference there was to be with M. Bentinck, which, I suppose, will produce instructions for my conduct relative to the preparations for the next campaign. When that matter is settled, which may be done with very little delay, I think we shall have all our business, both for peace and war, clear and easy;

1747. but without it we shall set out with suspicion, one
— of another, which cannot but be productive of the
worst of consequences.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, Sept. 26. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I have the honour to send your Grace my Lord Sandwich's letter, which Lord Anson opened. I also take the liberty to send you my letter to the Duke, therein mentioned, and one more letter to H. R. H., and two to Lord Sandwich, by which your Grace will have the best I can give of all that has passed, and my poor reasonings and opinion upon it. I ought to beg pardon for giving you so much trouble; but as I am desirous your Grace should know every thing I do and think upon public affairs, in order to have your opinion upon it, I flatter myself you will excuse the frequent trouble I am obliged to give you. I think at last, which I have long wished, the Duke and Lord Sandwich will both receive orders to concert a plan for another campaign, which, in all events, must be of use, and in case the war should continue, absolutely necessary. I own I cannot at present be of opinion, that we should make peace upon the foot

of Marshal Saxe's paper, and no other peace can we now have. The consequence of fortifying Dunkirk to the land, when the port and harbours will remain open, or the leaving Furnes in the hands of the French, is what, informed as I am at present, I cannot but dread, as well as many of the other conditions contained in Marshal Saxe's paper. The preparation for another campaign ought, I think, to be the first object. I hope we shall have also some sketch of a plan of peace from Sandwich, for I foresee great difficulties if we have not first some light from thence. When any thing material happens, and especially when terms of *peace* come to be considered, let them arise either *here*, or from abroad, I must take the liberty to desire your Grace's company here, for in that great question I must beg to have your opinion and advice. I have sent short extracts of Lord Sandwich's last letter to Lord Chesterfield, which I am afraid you will not be able to make out, and also the list he sent of the Dutch troops. Lord Anson and Sir P. Warren have settled with Mr. Stone the orders to Shirley, &c. and they agree entirely with your Grace. I hope your health is quite returned. By what I hear, your Grace has got a vast majority of the freemen at Bedford: I hope their acts of violence will not stand good.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

1747.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, September 29. 1747.

My dear Lord,

You will see that the intent of my very long despatch of this day is to answer the queries brought by Count Bentinck : I think that is better than a private explanation, and will be to be made more use of than if it had come only to your Grace or to the Duke of Newcastle.

As to the plan of peace, the Prince of Orange is willing to concert it with me; but I cannot in justice to him think of sending any peace of that sort over in a public letter, till I can form a pretty good guess whether it will be accepted or not : for I am sorry to know that there are some people who are so ready to find fault with any thing that comes from the Prince of Orange, that they would be glad of an opportunity to undervalue any performance that was supposed to be his ; for this reason I will try whether we can form any thing of this sort, and will send it privately to the Duke of Newcastle, and if his Grace informs me that he thinks it will do, with small alterations, I will then transmit it in my public letter to Lord Chesterfield.

I have received the Duke of Newcastle's private letter by Charles Bentinck, and the copy of his Grace's letter to H. R. H., for which I am upon all accounts most extremely obliged to him. I do not write to him because this and my public letter contain all the answer I am at present able to make.

The enclosed note is to beg your Grace would send me a passport for Count Harrach's baggage, which is going from hence to Italy: though I think it can be of no use, yet, as his people judge it necessary, I should be very sorry to give him any reason to doubt my readiness to oblige him.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

The auction of pictures happened unluckily while I was at the army.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, October 3. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I am very much obliged to your Grace for the honour of your letter, and the papers you sent me. I have returned all but the plan, which I thought your Grace intended I should keep. I am sorry our friend has sent a plan which I fear will be ill interpreted here, as being, in our present circumstances, what we cannot flatter ourselves with the hope of gaining in any degree, and does by no means answer what my Lord Chancellor proposed, which was that the King and the Prince of Orange should first settle a reasonable plan amongst themselves, and then propose it with *weight* to the

1747. Queen of Hungary and the King of Sardinia. I have taken the liberty last night to write in that way to Lord Sandwich, and desire him to revise the plan if not too late. I spoke to the King and my brother about Admiral Schryver's memorial. The Treasury had before given orders to the proper officers to inquire into it, and report what was proper to be done by them, so that I conclude is all that can be done at present. We have no news since my last of any consequence, except the measures taking in Holland for settling the succession to the stadholderate on the Prince of Orange's heirs, male or female, which will be a great point for securing hereafter the most perfect union with this country, and be a lasting security and advantage to it.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Admiralty, October 3. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's letter to the Mayor of Portsmouth is stopped till your farther directions. Mr. Ramsden was with me from the Duke of Newcastle's office, to show me a letter just received from Turkey, which gives an account that Admiral Griffin is before Poticheri with eight men of war, and that they have some way contrived to get a

number of troops together (I suppose mostly blacks) 1747.
to block the place up by land. What may be the
issue of this siege I wo'n't pretend to determine, but
I know Griffin to be a sensible man, and therefore
should not suspect him of doing an absurd thing;
so that I promise myself some good effect, though
they should not gain their point. The India com-
pany has received a large packet from their settle-
ments there, by the same conveyance with the
Duke's letter, but what it contains is secret, as the
directors are all out of town, being fond of imitating
their betters. As soon as any more particulars come
to my knowledge I shall despatch them to your Grace.
The account we had of Couli Can's death was false;
but there is an insurrection there, and perhaps more
misery of all sorts than perhaps was ever known in
any country. The Dutch settlements are demolished,
and the governor bastinadoed to death: our governor
(I suppose it is of a new company lately established
there) has barely escaped with life, but is plundered
of every thing. Lord Sandwich sent a letter to your
Grace, but none to any of the other ministers. As
soon as I can get it out of the Duke of Newcastle's
hands I will forward it to Woburn: there is in it a
proposal from the Prince of Orange to take General
Keith into his service, which is approved by the
Duke of Cumberland. I enclose your Grace a
letter I received from Robins, which will give you
a very good idea of the situation of our troops, and
those of the French in Flanders. I hope the Duchess
and all the set of braggers are well. If Legge and I

1747. — could have stayed a few days longer, we should have made our fortunes. He is gone out of town to shoot partridges with Lord Lincoln : Mr. Pelham is gone for a week to Lord Gower's.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

Your Grace will please to return me Robins's letter.

EARL OF SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, October 6. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I send to your Grace enclosed a plan which I have drawn up in concert with the Prince of Orange, which seems to be very proper to be proposed on the part of the allies as a canvass to treat upon. Your Grace will not imagine that either the Prince or any one else can hope to obtain all the terms contained in that piece, but it is judged by all parties advisable to ask more than we will take. You will see that upon this principle I have made a farther demand with regard to Cape Breton than what is pointed out to me by my instructions, which, at worst, we may make some merit in giving up; but before we are driven to that extremity, I think it will have the good effect of rendering the affair of Cape Breton a less unpopular point in

Holland than it would otherwise be; for though it is not very material to them in a commercial light, whose possession Cape Breton is to be in, if it is to be held either by us or by France, yet it will be an advantage to them to have it remain useless to both; and I really think the thing Holland ought to wish is, that a stipulation ought to be made such as I propose, and it would at the same time be the best thing that could be for us, as we should have all the advantage we could ever propose to ourselves from this conquest without the expense of maintaining it; however, I fear these ideas are too favourable for us to hope to be able to carry them into execution. 1747.

The Prince of Orange's opinion upon the whole of this plan is that it should be proposed at the opening of the conferences in the name of the alliance, but that it should first be sent to the courts of Vienna and Turin in our joint name, and that we should endeavour to settle with those courts what should be their ultimatum, and what points they would recede in, that we might make the best advantage we could of their cessions in the course of the negotiation. As to the King of Sardinia, he said he thought the republic of Genoa was the power that had deserved the worst of any, and that if by insuring to the King of Sardinia the whole of his demands in the Ponente, we could engage him to yield back to the house of Austria a part of what was taken away by the treaty of Worms, we should clear up a great difficulty in the way of any pacifi-

1747. cation, by removing all ground of dispute and uneasiness between those two courts.

I have communicated this piece to the Pensionary, who really goes on to act cordially and well under the Stadtholder: he says he has not time to-day to examine it carefully, but he will copy it, and if he should think any addition or alteration necessary, he will offer it to me before the next post.

The Duke of Newcastle is apprised of some of my reasons for not sending this piece at once in my public letter, and I shall wait for his answer, or for some farther light in my next despatches, before I shall venture to send it; so that I beg you would take care at all events that it is not seen by any other person before it comes in the proper channel.

I have not said a word of the establishment for Don Philip or the guarantee for the King of Naples, because I think those propositions, if they are ever started, should not come first from us; and I repeat to your Grace, that though a paper of this sort has the name of a plan of peace, yet the real plan of peace can subsist only in the negotiations between the several courts of the allies. A public plan of this sort will serve only, in my opinion, to methodise our business, and to carry an air of union to the negotiation, which both now and whenever the affair is afterwards examined may be productive of very good consequences.

The parts in this piece relative to the King of Sardinia's interests were suggested to me by Cha-

vannes, by which you will see the whole of his master's demands. As I have already told the Duke of Newcastle, I hope he will be brought to modify them, but that must be settled at Turin, and not here. After I had copied the piece and sent it to the Prince of Orange, Chavannes came to me again, and said he believed he forgot to insert a clause which was absolutely necessary to secure his master's interests against the private compact supposed to be made between the courts of Vienna and Madrid, and offered the short article which I send you enclosed. I showed it to the Prince, who made some little objection to the inserting it, for fear of disgusting the House of Austria ; but I find Chavannes insists so strongly upon it, that I fancy when he has spoke to the Stadtholder about it, that he will be brought to approve its being added to the project. 1747.

I depend upon your Grace's supporting me in my promise (which I am almost engaged in) that the Dutch ships should have leave to clean and refit in England, which I thought the only sure way of getting them out and keeping them at sea. Schryver has the Prince's leave to choose the six best sailing and best conditioned ships now in commission, and to send them instantly completely victualled to England to clean. Schryver himself has some business that will detain him a little while in Zealand, but that there may be no delay in the despatch of his squadron, he will send the ships away immediately, and come over himself in the packet. This

1747. gentleman desired me to interest myself with regard to the demands made for duties and light money upon the prize he brought in. He has given his reasons in the enclosed memorandum why he should be exempted from such charge, which to me seem to have some weight, and I must beg of your Grace that if there is room for favour that you would interest yourself that it may be shown upon the present occasion. We had formed a wrong opinion of Admiral Schryver while he was last with us in England: he was then discontented and uneasy on account of the bad orders he was under, and the ill condition of his ships, which he knew were kept unprovided that they might not act; and I believe that vexation, working upon a lively disposition, made him a little imprudent in his expressions and behaviour in places where he ought to have been upon his guard; but that is entirely altered: he comes now with orders and in a condition to act, and I believe I can safely say that he is one of the ablest and honestest officers in this service; which I am sure is the best argument I can make use of to entitle him to your Grace's protection.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

Since my writing this, Chavannes is come to me from the Prince of Orange, who, on reconsidering it, approves of the clause proposed to be added to the project, so that you will consider it as inserted in the original, which it shall be when I send it in form in my public letter.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO M. DE CONFLANS.

1747.

October 8. 1747.

Monsieur,

Je viens de recevoir l'honneur de votre lettre, et je suis très-mortifié que vous ayez eu aucune occasion d'être mécontent de la conduite envers vous d'un officier qui a l'honneur de commander un des vaisseaux du Roi. Je puis vous assurer, Monsieur, qu'on fera une recherche fort exacte sur la conduite de M. Shirley, et rien ne me donnera plus de plaisir que de vous faire toute la réparation dans mon pouvoir, comme c'est une maxime établie parmi nous de faire traiter les prisonniers de guerre avec tout l'égard et politesse imaginable. Je sçais fort bien, Monsieur, que vous avez toujours agi de cette façon, ce qui nous rendra encore plus inexcusables si nous n'agissions pas de la même manière avec vous. J'ai déjà commencé à mettre tout en œuvre pour obtenir votre retour en France sur votre parole, aussibien que des officiers de la Renommée, comme vous m'avez demandé. En attendant que je puisse vous annoncer cette nouvelle,

J'ai l'honneur d'être, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

1747.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, October 10. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I have wrote a private letter by this post to Lord Chesterfield, mentioning a proposal of the Prince of Orange to take General Keith (who is no longer employed in Russia) into the service of the republic, by whose abilities he hopes to effect the re-establishment of their military affairs. Nothing can be so great a proof of the misfortune the Prince is under of having no capable person to act under him, as the late wretched affair at Bergen-op-Zoom, where the government of their most important fortress was given to a person totally unequal to so great a trust, and yet after allowing every bad thing to be true that is said of him, in looking round their service I cannot find where the Prince could have pitched upon one who would not have been as liable to objection and as likely to have lost the place as Cromstrom. A head, such as Keith is generally represented to be, would do a great deal towards recovering their discipline, by breeding up a set of officers who would hereafter be employed with credit and reputation; but without some one of that sort to attend minutely to the business, the good effects would not in my opinion be so certain; and as the government of this country is now going to be re-established upon a most solid and lasting foundation, it becomes us to be more serious in our attention to every thing that may tend to render

the republic of real service to her allies, with whom her future connection (by the late proposal in the States of Holland, which is, I think, as good as concluded) is in my opinion finally secured. The Prince of Orange, notwithstanding the great want he is in of a person under him such as General Keith, very properly declines taking any step whatever before he knew whether it would be agreeable to his Majesty; and as I am aware of the objection there may be to this gentleman's supposed principles, I did not venture to start the question in England before I first knew the Duke's sentiments about it, which are contained in the following extract of the letter which I received from him yesterday:—"I am extremely obliged to you for acquainting me with the Prince of Orange's views concerning General Keith. I own I should be extremely glad of the King's consenting to his coming into their service, as I don't doubt the Prince of Orange would take care to keep him as a general of the republic and not as a hero of the Jacobites, of which, if some care is not taken, there may be great danger."

I have not mentioned any thing of this in my letter to Lord C., because I make it a rule never to bring in H. R. H.'s name to the support of any proposal of mine, which is the only return I can make to him for the great kindness with which he has ever treated me; for if there is to be blame, I know it is of less consequence if upon all occasions it falls upon me; for the same reason, I shall not

1747. — mention my having H. R. H.'s direct orders to write the letter to Puisieux, which goes by this night's post; yet it may be proper that the Duke of Newcastle should be apprised of these matters, which is the reason of my troubling your Grace about them.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

October 10. 1747.

My Lord Duke,

I cannot say the account your Grace sent me of the *Gloriosa's* making her escape and getting into port after meeting with five of our ships, gave me any satisfaction: it is plain, even from Crookshank's own journal, that he behaved ill: the *Oxford's* behaviour must have been bad, for she did not try what she could do with her, which it was her duty to have done. Your letter was sent last night to the Mayor of Portsmouth by consent of Messrs. Legge and Cleveland. We have no sea news but that the Jamaica fleet is probably by this time in the Downs, and the Leeward Island fleet may be expected every hour under convoy of the *Suffolk* and *Lyme*. It is reported Commodore Lee is not tried, which I am sorry to hear, and think very wrong: why they send him a passenger home to

be tried here, I cannot conceive. This admiralty is 1747.
cursed with court-martials, and the new method
they have fallen into of late has made them ever-
lasting. I had wrote to Shirley before I received
your Grace's letter, upon the report I had heard of
his not having used M. Conflans with all the civility
and politeness that a man of his character and rank
had a right to; not but the French officers are apt
to complain upon slight reasons; and this very Con-
flans suffered the Captain of the Northumberland
to lie three days wounded upon his ship's deck,
and die without giving him a bed to lie on. I
don't mention this in excuse for the treatment he
complains of; for I think it is barbarous and brutal
not to treat prisoners with all possible kindness and
civility, and shall never have an opinion of any man
that acts otherwise. Admiral Chambers has orders
to examine strictly into the grounds of Conflans'
complaint.

I am, &c. &c.

ANSON.

The King permits M. Conflans and the captain
and officers of the *Renommée* to return to France.

1747.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

London, October 19. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I have deferred till this time giving you any answers to the letters I have received from you, as I was both unwilling to give unnecessary trouble, as also to send by the common post any answer or opinion upon those letters, which were through my channel to be communicated to a third person; from whom I know you have received answers to all of them much more to the purpose than any thing I could have wrote to you. Now I have a safe way of conveyance I will speak freely to your Lordship, as to one I most truly love and esteem, my sentiments upon the present situation of affairs, as well on your side of the water as on this, and freely open to you my thoughts on our present situation. It is certainly a very unfortunate event that M. Bentinck's illness should have prevented him for some time past from taking a greater share in business than he has of late been able to do; and I cannot quite agree with your Lordship's opinion, in your letter of the 29th September, N. S., that your answer to the queries brought by M. Bentinck to the Hague in your public letter to Lord Chesterfield is better than a private explanation, inasmuch as I think it is absolutely necessary the Stadtholder and

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

his ministers should answer for themselves in a categorical manner, and explain fully to the King's ministers here what they are both able and willing to do. As I have not had time since my coming to town to look over the plan enclosed in your letter of the 6th October N. S. (having immediately transmitted it to the Duke of Newcastle), I cannot pretend to give any opinion upon it, but do in one point entirely agree with your Lordship's sentiments, in the long letter Mr. Wiseman brought over to the Duke of Newcastle (and which I have but just now seen), in relation to our not producing our *ultimatum* immediately, as in all negotiations it is generally understood that every party shall relax something from its first demands; and should we not at first ask so much as to be able to recede from part of it, we undoubtedly should not be on an equal foot in the treaty with our neighbours. As I am upon this letter to the Duke of Newcastle I cannot forbear, whilst it is fresh in my memory, to touch upon some other parts of it; and in the first place, as I am always happy when I agree in sentiments with your Lordship, of the extreme good effect I conceive a separate peace with Spain must produce, and I must own I think this idea a practicable one, as in all probability Spain would be contented with one of the two things she now demands, I mean either the establishment of the Infant, or the restitution of Gibraltar. I know this last is a rock all ministers will fear to split on; but I must own I do think that, though the price of it would

1747. be a great one, yet there are advantages Spain could, and I believe would, give us in the West Indies that it might be worth parting with it for, especially as a peace founded upon that basis might be reasonably supposed to be a lasting one. I don't know whether your Lordship would be willing to go so far as I would for obtaining a separate peace with Spain; and I am more afraid we shall differ further in our sentiments with regard to the Dutch declaring war against France. I must own I think it appears to me the most absurd demand possible for one nation to make to another to press us to continue a war for their preservation (by which war we are almost undone ourselves), whilst they obstinately refuse to declare war against that very power who has actually invaded and taken possession of a considerable part of their own country, without our increasing our contingent, which is already almost too hard for us to bear. I must likewise mention to your Lordship the ill effect the late temporising conduct of the Prince of Orange with the French party, for the sake of securing an hereditary dignity to his family, has in this country; and surely I may venture to say that the Stadtholder's reviving discipline in the troops and economy in the finances, for which sole end he was called by the voice of the people to that high office, would be the likeliest means of establishing that honour hereditary in his family. Though your Lordship mentions nothing in any of the late letters I have received from you, or that the Duke of Newcastle has sent me, relating

to the affair of Zealand, and the squadron of his Majesty's ships on that coast, yet I cannot forbear mentioning to you that it is my firm opinion (as it is Lord Anson's) that they cannot be kept there during the course of this winter without manifest danger of the ships, and great detriment to his Majesty's service at home; and I am sorry to inform you that, so lately as by this day's mail, we have received a complaint from an officer of the Ordnance, one Mr. Michael Adolphus, now lying at Helvoet in a ship laden with ordnance stores bound for England, that some few days ago a Dutch man-of-war sailed from that port with one of their Indiamen under convoy for the Downs; that upon his applying to the captain to take the English ordnance ship under his convoy, his answer was, they were not at war with the French, and that he could not protect us. It is needless for me to make any comment upon this, and I am sure your Lordship must be sensible what such a conduct as this, viz. the suspending the publication of La Roque's sentence, the temporising measures with the French party in Holland, must occasion in England, even among those who mean well; especially as this happens at the eve of the meeting of the Parliament.

I transmitted to Mr. Pelham Admiral Schryver's memorial, and what other things you gave me in charge I have endeavoured punctually to obey. I ought to make an apology for having troubled you so long; but as all I have wrote proceeds entirely

1747. from the love and esteem I have for your Lordship,
 I trust in your good nature to excuse it, being
 With perfect truth, &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, October 20. 1747. N. 8.

My dear Lord,

This is only to beg your Grace would let the Duke of Newcastle know that M. Bentinck is again taken ill: he was blooded yesterday and blistered this evening, so that you may imagine things are not in such a condition with him as to suffer him to write upon the business he promised he would by the last post. I hope he will be well enough by Tuesday next, though I can't say I am at all easy about him, his distemper being a violent headache, with the bad symptom of dozing so as hardly to be able to keep awake.

I find the Duke has a mind, if it is possible, to oblige Marshal Bathiani in changing the place of the conferences. I fear it is gone too far to be remedied: but in case any means could be found here to alter it, I hope it would not be objected to in England; and I think it necessary to apprise you upon that account, of H. R. H.'s desire, which, I dare say, you will be glad if possible to gratify him in.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

1747.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague October 24. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

The chief reason of my troubling you with this is still to make M. Bentinck's excuse for not writing, who is by no means in a condition to attend to any sort of business. I hope he is on the mending hand, and that the Duke of Newcastle will hear from him by next post; but I am his witness that it is impossible for him to stir at present without risking a relapse; and I am sure he must stir a good deal before he can give satisfactory answers to all those points, though I still flatter myself he will be able to do it. As to the declaration of war, I cannot hope for it upon any other footing than as I have stated it in my public letter; and if you would have it effected in that way, you must help the Prince of Orange on your side, by increasing the contingent, otherwise he will not be able to carry it through.

You may imagine I write nothing in my public letter without the Duke's approbation; but, as I have already told you, it is not my intention ever to bring his name in question. I believe he will write to-night to Mr. Pelham, upon the subject of the Danes; but I am sure you will have the utmost precaution that no notice is taken of any such letter being wrote, without Mr. P. communicating it.

Nothing can behave with more address or under-

1747. standing than the Duke does in the management of things here, and I am sure his presence will be of the utmost advantage to us. He has taken opportunities of talking very fully and seriously to the Princess Royal, which is the channel through which I am convinced advice is to be insinuated to the Prince of Orange with the greatest probability of success. I own I hope much good from this intercourse, and I doubt not but that I shall soon perceive it, in the course of business, with the Prince of Orange; which, during M. Bentinck's illness, has not been carried on entirely as I could have wished.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hague, October 27. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I am still obliged to write in M. Bentinck's excuse: he has been something worse these two days past; but it will take some time after he comes out before he can give your Grace satisfactory answers to all the questions you gave him. Our affairs have suffered during his illness and absence, but I hope they are by no means past remedy.

It is my duty and my resolution never to conceal any thing from your Grace; but it may be improper that any one person whatever, but you and the person to whom these letters are communicated, should have any suspicion of this sort, till things are gone much farther than where they now are, as I flatter myself that after Bentinck's coming again to attend to business, they will soon return to their former state. 1747.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

M. DE CONFLANS TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Plymouth, Octobre 27. 1747.

My Lord,

Les ordres sont arrivés aujourd'hui pour mon retour en France. Je sçai que vous m'avez procuré cette faveur. J'ai l'honneur de vous en faire mes très humble remerciemens, et vous prie d'être persuadé de la reconnoissance parfaite que j'en conserverai toute ma vie.

J'ai l'honneur d'estre, &c. &c.

LE CHEVALIER DE CONFLANS.

1747. **THE BISHOP OF WINCHESTER (HOADLEY) TO THE
DUKE OF BEDFORD.**

October 28. 1747.

My Lord,

Upon the promotion of the Dean of Winchester I have taken the liberty to solicit the Duke of Newcastle to recommend to the King's favour my son at Winchester, to succeed, if that Deanery shall be made void. I have urged the example of several of my predecessors, who have had the like request granted them; and said many other things, for which I must refer to that letter, which I dare say the Duke will show to your Grace: if you will be so good as to oblige me and my son by joining your powerful assistance to my poor interest, and showing your hearty desire that your old playfellow may succeed in what is requested. I assure your Grace he will be most acceptable to all the country, and is capable of doing service to the public in that post. Your kind concurrence in this will for ever oblige

Yours, &c. &c.

B. WINCHESTER.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, November 5. 1747. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I hope this letter will find your Grace perfectly re-established from your indisposition, the

knowledge of which, I hope, it is unnecessary for me to say gave me the utmost concern. 1747.

I had a letter last week from Lord Vere, in which he was so kind as to offer to propose to your Grace to send the Bristol for one of the two ships that are to go to the East Indies, which is a voyage he says my brother informs him he should be very well pleased with. I wrote by the last post to thank him for his kind intention, but to beg he would think of some other destination for my brother, as his being absent at the time of the general election will put me to the utmost inconvenience. As your Grace is so good as to give me leave often to trouble you with the state of my private views and interests, I shall take the liberty to explain this matter to you. I have managed my affairs in such a manner in the county of Huntingdon, that I am sure of two members for the town, and one for the county, but my brother is the only one for the county that can be chose without opposition; for with him I can divide the Tory interest, which would be united against any other candidate that intends to support the measures of the government; for, notwithstanding what Mr. Proby may think, I know very well Mr. Fellows's friends would force him, if my brother was out of the question, to join with Sir Edward Pickering in preference to young Proby, as they now forced him to join with my brother, which I do not at all consider as a voluntary act of his: but in any sense an opposition, and a strong one, is certain to any new candidate from

1747. Sir Edward Pickering, supported by the Tory interest in general, and (if I was to take part against him, of course) by the Duke of Manchester. I would not answer for the success of any person against that connection, if I had a great deal of money to lay out upon such an occasion; but as I have none at all, I should be very apprehensive of the consequence. In this case I believe your Grace will see it to be very necessary that my brother should not be absent, as his being chose without opposition (which he certainly will) depends upon his presence, and as his being chose in that manner will be a great advantage both to my purse and credit in the world.

I cannot leave the subject of Lord Vere without mentioning to your Grace the knowledge I have of his being at present endeavouring to set every instrument to work to recommend himself in preference to me, in case you should ever grow tired of your employment: your Grace very well knows that is a subject upon which I can never be indifferent, as I fairly own that office to be the single object of my views, as I think I can be of more use to the public there than in any other station, and as I know too much of the world ever to give up a substance to catch at a shadow; in which light I cannot help esteeming every station beyond this that may be thrown in my way, but that I shall never be weak enough to catch at. I always thought one of the great obstacles in my way was the King, whose ideas of me, are, I flatter myself,

in great measure altered, and I believe I may venture to say it is not from that quarter that I should meet with any difficulty, so that the great objection of all I think I may consider as removed. Another very material circumstance in my favour is (what I am pretty well assured of) the support of my good friend Anson ; whose concurrence, consent to act under me, and testimony in my favour, cannot fail of being greatly serviceable. I think I am, besides, well assured of Mr. Pelham, and, I believe, of the Duke of Newcastle, but what I esteem, above all, is the advantage of being under your Grace's protection, who, I know, whenever you have a mind to bring the thing to an issue, can do in it more than all the rest put together. 1747.

I ought to make great apology for troubling your Grace with this detail ; but as I know one of the artifices my adversary makes use of is to insinuate that I have other views at present ; and have laid aside all thoughts of the sea line, I thought I should be doing an injustice both to your Grace who introduced, and in some measure answered for me in that profession, and to myself who have only that point in view, if I did not beg of your Grace whenever you may hear any insinuation of that sort, to answer for my constancy to my original purpose. As long as ever your Grace cares to trouble yourself with this office, I am sure I shall always think it an honour to serve under you, though it was for twenty years ; but I must own I should be most seriously hurt and disappointed, if

1747. Lord Vere was put over my head; for I cannot have so mean an opinion of myself, as not to think I am at least his equal in point of qualification, as I am convinced that with Anson I make in public full as good a seaman as he ever can do without him.

I cannot omit this opportunity of returning your Grace and my Lady Duchess my sincere thanks for the favour done me in sending Mr. Leveson with me: I can't pretend to judge whether I am of any use to him, but I know he is so to me, and I hope you will prevail on my Lord Gower, if I should continue any time in this profession, not to take him from me, as I really think he is a credit to me.

General St. Clair still remains on the coast of Bretagne, notwithstanding the report of his being re-embarked. The French stop all letters from that part of France; yet what intelligence we have from Paris by this post is I think very favourable; namely, that he has taken possession of two small islands between Quiberon and Belle Isle, on one of which there was a castle, which he has turned into an hospital, and that it is imagined he is preparing to attack Belle Isle.

I am very curious to know the particulars of Duke d'Anville's ill-success: it is certain he has failed in his enterprise, wherever it was aimed, but the French are very secret as to the circumstances of his misfortune.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

GOVERNOR CLINTON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1747.

New York, November 6. 1747.

My Lord,

It has been the fear of being troublesome that has occasioned my not acknowledging your Grace's favours, by your concurrence in my several promotions, particularly in my late promotion to an Admiral, which I have observed in the public prints.

The great part I have undertaken to promote his Majesty's service, for the preservation of his colonies in North America, has been too much neglected by the people in my government, though applied to by me with unwearied endeavours, and I have the highest reason to observe to your Grace, that M. de Lancey, the chief justice of this province, and brother-in-law to Sir Peter Warren, has been one of the principal authors of obstructing every measure that could promote the service, his Majesty was pleased to order for the reduction of Canada, by his endeavouring to preserve a neutrality in behalf of this province between the Indians I had engaged in the British interest and the French and their Indians in Canada, which would in all probability have tended to the ruin of his Majesty's neighbouring colonies and the inhabitants thereof, as was done in Queen Anne's wars. But notwithstanding he refused attending me as one of his Majesty's council, upon whom I depended, as chief justice of the province, to assist me in en-

1747. gaging the six nations of Indians upon the service above mentioned, I brought them into the terms his Majesty expected, contrary to his inclinations and endeavours, joined with some others of his Majesty's council in the province.

I have complained of this gentleman's conduct to the ministry, and I hope he will be remarkably taken notice of, as a person no way to be continued in the employment he now enjoys, or in any other service under the crown.

Upon account of my ill health I've made my application to return to England, and I hope to meet with your Grace's approbation and consent to the terms I propose to Lord Lincoln, which I conclude his Lordship has informed you of.

I shall not trouble your Grace further on this occasion, but beg leave to be, &c. &c.

G. CLINTON.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, November 7. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I have your Grace's obliging letter of the 19th of October, which is expressed in such kind and friendly terms to me, that it would be unpardonable in me to neglect the present favourable opportunity of acknowledging it.

Your Grace will have seen by my late despatches

that things have now taken a good turn here, since I consider that we have in a manner succeeded in most of our material objects, not excepting the declaration of war: for more than what the Prince of Orange has engaged for was impracticable; and, indeed, I think we have good reason to be satisfied with his behaviour on this point, for he certainly takes a great deal upon himself; but not more than he will be able to perform, if we give him the materials he hopes for from us. 1747.

I have some hopes of success in your negotiation with Spain, and think it likely that your Grace is right in your opinion that that court will be satisfied with Gibraltar or the establishment. I know either of those points would have done with Maccanaz, whose behaviour, by-the-by, was exactly the same through its whole progress with that of General Wall; and it is only to be feared that since that time the court of France may have increased her ascendant over that of Madrid, so as to render new measures necessary to be followed by us before we can detach her from her alliance: at that time I am sure either of the two points in question would have engaged Maccanaz to sign directly. As to Gibraltar, my opinion upon that particular most fully agrees with your Grace's, for which I beg to appeal both to the Duke of Newcastle and Mr. Pelham, as they are fully apprised of my thoughts upon that subject. The advantages that Spain offered us as an equivalent for that cession would, in my opinion, have greatly overpaid it, exclusive of the benefit

1747. arising from the detaching Spain from her connection with France; since she did not only offer to settle all our commercial disputes according to our own inclination, but enter into a defensive alliance upon the footing of a guarantee for all our *present possessions* in Europe or elsewhere; which was meant likewise to extend to Louisbourg, and so — understood.

Your Grace says very properly that it is extremely unreasonable in the republic to refuse declaring war unless we increase our contingent; I acknowledge every word of your reasoning to be true: but your Grace must consider that both we and the Prince of Orange have here very unreasonable people to deal with, and who cannot be governed but with art and management, yet when once they are engaged, will act in the manner we would have them, because they will then have no other resource. It is not as a national right that this increase of our contingent is pressed by the Prince of Orange, or supported by me; but as a means of carrying the government here to engage in the measure to which of all others they have the most thorough aversion; and as it is sure of being afterwards followed by the consequence of our leading these bad people to pursue right measures: if the Prince of Orange could do it without this trouble, I am certain he would not hesitate a moment; and if I thought it was practicable upon any other foot I would have been very far from giving any encouragement to the proposition: but as that is not the

case, I am convinced that it is doing his Majesty 1747.
essential service in showing the condition by which
this great point, that will so much strengthen our
hands both at home and abroad, is to be attained: if
the condition required was somewhat disadvan-
tageous to us besides the expense, I should think
we ought to agree to it because of the great benefit
with which it is attended. But when we consider
that the expense is the only objection, and the in-
crease of the army is a matter as much for our
interest, or more than for that of any other nation,
as we are more deeply concerned, I should think the
expense of 7000 men is not an article worth insisting
upon in opposition to the declaration of war on the
part of the republic, the support and increase of the
power of the Stadtholder, and the ascertaining the
superiority of our army for the next campaign.
This is the light in which I consider the question;
and though I acknowledge the demand to be wrong
and unjust, yet it is one of those very wrong things
that, in my opinion, every prudential consideration
ought to determine us to submit to.

Your Grace very well knows that no one is more
free than I am of acknowledging my real opinion of
the Stadtholder, or any one else whatever, to those
with whom I act in confidence: but as I am one of
the first to own when I see he is wrong, it would
be the most thorough injustice to him if I did not
at the same time defend him when he is unjustly
accused; and I am sorry to say that I know there
are some people in England who are not backward

1747. in profiting of every occasion to discredit him in the eyes of mankind, which I cannot think to be very consistent with the interest of England. I acknowledge that the Prince is not so forward and severe in his punishments as I wish he was, and as the low state of the military establishment in this country requires he should be; but he rewards well, and is willing and desirous to engage good officers wherever they are to be got, and I hope will be pushed to punish all those who deserve it; though I own he must be pushed to that by his friends, who see the want of severity in a stronger light than he does. However, he has not shown an ill disposition in his first affair of this nature that is to come under his cognisance; for though the Prince of Orange's enemies in England may endeavour to insinuate that his keeping back General La Rocque's sentence is with a design to screen him from justice, yet they will be greatly disappointed when that matter comes to light, since the thing is still a secret: yet I believe your Grace may venture to be satisfied, from my authority, that the reason of the sentence being kept back is, that it is too mild, and in order to find out whether there is no possibility, according to the laws of the country, of having the affair re-examined. This does not show a want of disposition to punish, when your Grace knows that by the mild sentence, which is not approved, this general is broke with infamy. I must beg your Grace on no account to mention this affair to any person whatever, because I have no formal au-

thority for it, and know it only by accident; and the Prince of Orange would be uneasy if the affair was ever talked of before it is public. But I thought I could not, in justice to the Prince, omit acquainting your Grace with this circumstance for your own private information. 1747.

I think your Grace will see by my public letter, that as much satisfaction as could have been desired has been given, in consequence of Michael Adolphus's complaint of being refused the protection of a Dutch man-of-war bound to the Downs: but I wish Mr. Adolphus, when he made his complaint to Mr. Mitchell, had named the Dutch ship and captain, since in things of this nature the facts ought always to be as clearly stated as possible; for it may possibly have been the case that Mr. Adolphus may have made use of this only as an excuse to continue at Helvoet upon demurrage, and that his not going under the above-mentioned convoy was not the fault of the Dutch captain alone.

I am very much concerned to find by your Grace's letter that you and Lord Anson are inclined to think it may be requisite to call back Mr. Mitchell's squadron during the winter season; for I am sure there is no measure whatever can be attended with worse consequences in this country than the withdrawing his Majesty's naval force, in this time of their danger. The whole apprehensions, both from England and here, fixed upon an attack upon Zealand; and my orders have constantly pressed me to use my utmost endeavours

1747. to engage the Prince of Orange to put that province in a state of defence. The measures for the security of these islands have been taken, and the disposition made in a formal council of war, which has greatly eased the minds of people here, as they think the resolution drawn up with spirit and sense; and as they see it supported by the means we have in our hands of a considerable naval force, to serve as a barrier against any attempt of the enemy. As this is the present impression here, I leave to your Grace to judge what will be the consequence when they see the flower of their fleet drawn off, and that avowedly upon a supposition that ships cannot remain upon their coast in the winter season: if that is the case, their situation is indeed a deplorable one; but your Grace will see that in the council of war they have agreed to expose their own ships, at all events; and with that and the support of our squadron, they think themselves secure, and are ready to go on with us in vigorous measures: but it is very easy to see to what point their reasoning must revert, if we give them authority to say that they have it not in their power to withstand the enemy.

Your Grace will, I dare say, allow me to speak my opinion to you with this freedom, which I flatter myself you are convinced arises from no other principle than the duty I owe to his Majesty and the public, which makes it incumbent on me to state every question in the light in which I see it, when I imagine that any thing is thought of

that can be detrimental to his Majesty's service and interest. 1747.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, November 24. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I trouble your Grace with the enclosed letter, which I received the other day from a M. Nobili, a Lucquese gentleman whom I was acquainted with last year at the Hague: he was then employed by the Austrians in their remittances, and is a man of credit and fortune. I likewise send you a copy of the answer I have wrote to him, and I can, I am sure, apply in no channel more likely to acquit myself of my desire to serve his republic, than by addressing myself to your Grace, whose humanity will, I am satisfied, incline you to help these poor people out of their present dilemma, if that is to be done consistently with the good of our service.

I heartily congratulate your Grace upon the farther success of our fleet *, and can assure you that

* Admiral Hawke's victory of the Admiral contains the following homely expression: "As their merchant vessels to the enemy's ships were large, they took a great deal of drubbing."

1747. people here do justice to those who have the direction of it, by not attributing to chance, but to disposition, and understanding the different figure that our marine has made these two years past, from what it did at the beginning of the war. I hope and believe you will give us an example of quick justice in the instance of Captain Fox: it will do good to our own service, and will not fail to have its effect here, where justice, I dare say, will be done against Cromstrom and the other infamous generals, though the form of government and nature of the people here make all proceedings of this sort extremely tedious. Your Grace may, perhaps, be glad to see the French relation of Admiral Hawke's action, which seems, in general, pretty true, and it comes accordingly herewith enclosed.

I have nothing of business to trouble your Grace with by this opportunity, except to inform you that in a post or two at furthest I shall be able to send you an ostensible plan of peace, which will be with some immaterial alterations the same that I have already sent to the Duke of Newcastle, which, we think, should be proposed as a canvass to treat upon; and the plan will come accompanied with the Prince of Orange's secret thoughts as to the articles in which we ought to recede, both for ourselves and our allies. These secret thoughts neither are nor will be known by any person whatever, except Bentinck, the Greffier, the Pensionary, and myself. What they are his Royal Highness will be able to

inform the Duke of Newcastle, as they are entirely upon the footing which his Royal Highness and I had concerted with Bentinck; and I flatter myself you will have reason to be satisfied with them, as they are really calculated upon the principles your Grace acts upon, of accepting a tolerable peace, but not running headlong into a peace *quovis modo*. This proceeding is, what I imagine, entirely agreeable to your Grace's sentiments of asking at the congress more than we can expect to obtain, and being agreed among ourselves in private what points we will recede from; and I flatter myself that by having brought things to this pitch, your Grace will be convinced that I am doing all in my power to put the great work entrusted to me in the road of success. We are here much displeased with the terms in which the French passports are conceived, since we cannot think we ought to submit to the superiority which they seem to claim, by their *condescending* to treat with us: I wish this affair, if not remedied by a change of style, does not do harm.

I hope your Grace will prevail on my Lord Gower to send Leveson back to me before I go to Aix-la-Chapelle: I believe it is his inclination, and I assure your Grace it is mine, because I have all the reason in the world to be satisfied with his behaviour, both public and private, and have a most sincere satisfaction in the hopes of being serviceable in the education of a person so nearly allied to your Grace, whose many acts of friendship to me cannot

1747. but make me happy in any opportunity of expressing my gratitude.

I wrote to the Duke of Newcastle by Colonel Yorke upon a point that nearly concerns me—the choice of a proper person, in case you should think of increasing the number of Ministers at the congress. I know very few that I could undertake it with, and indeed the office of itself is of so disagreeable a nature, that unless I am at ease as to what concerns myself in it, I must endeavour, by some means or other, to excuse myself; however, I flatter myself that your Grace and the Duke of Newcastle will take care that no difficulty is put upon me in this affair. I mentioned two people, one of whom I am sure is on all accounts void of objection; and I shall be very well satisfied and glad to undertake the business with either of them, but I really cannot well tell where to find another.

When your Grace honours me with an answer, I must beg the favour of you to return me M. Nobili's letter, and will, I hope, continue to believe me, &c.

SANDWICH.

1747.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

London, November 26. 1747.

My dear Lord,

Immediately on the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 24th inst. N. S., I waited on the Duke of Newcastle to communicate to him the contents of it, but that being his levee day, and his Grace being engaged in a great deal of company, I was unwilling to trouble him at that time, and left my message with Mr. Stone, together with M. Nobili's letter and the copy of your answer to him. I believe you had forgot when you sent it to me, that the command of the squadron in the Mediterranean was under the direction of the Secretary of State for the southern province, and not under the orders of the Board of Admiralty, in relation to any of their operations by sea. After my delivery of your letter I was out of order for two or three days, and was not able to get it sent back to me or obtain any answer upon it till last Tuesday, at which time I was so much engaged that I had not time to answer it by that post. I can now inform your Lordship that I have settled every thing with the Duke of Newcastle (in concert with M. Wasse-naer and the Chevalier Osorio, whom he called into this conference) according to your ideas in your letter to M. Nobili; and I have settled with Mr. Stone the orders to be carried by Rear-Admiral

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

1747. Forbes to Mr. Byng, directing him not to violate *les droits du territoire de Lucques*, but at the same time to permit him to cruise as near their coasts as he shall think proper. Mr. Stone has likewise promised me to send an abstract of such part of the orders to Mr. Byng as relate to this affair, in order to your communicating them to M. Nobili at Lucca.

The court-martial is now actually sitting at Portsmouth upon the trial of Captain Fox for his late behaviour in the engagement with the French fleet, and is immediately to be followed by another on Captain Callis of the Oxford, for not engaging the Glorioso off Cape Finisterre, where he, in company with the Shoreham and Falcon sloop, met with her on her return to Europe. By the complexion of the court-martial I think there need be no doubt of strict justice, and it shall not be my fault if it is not speedy. I cannot at all agree with you in thinking that the French relation of the engagement is in general a true one, as Sir John Falstaff never brought out more men in buckram than they have ships, which they make to amount from twenty to twenty-three: to carry on the allegory, the three ships which engaged in the evening the Tonant and the Intrepide, and which are falsely represented in the French relation to be but just then entered into the action, are brought in justly to tally with Falstaff's *three misbegotten knaves in Kendal green*. Besides, throughout we find nothing but three or four English ships in different places upon one

French ship, all in the above style. Though I suppose you have already got it, I enclose you the list of the French and English line of battle, and must besides put you in mind that all their large ships had forty-two pounders on their lower batteries. I entirely agree with your Lordship in the subsequent part of your letter, and do think that in the beginning of the negotiation you must ask more than what you would be contented to take, as I am confident the French will at first insist on more than what they will afterwards be satisfied with; and were we to treat in that plain blunt way of giving our ultimatum at first, we certainly should not act on the level with them. Your Lordship judges very right, that though I am strongly inclined for peace, yet I am not for one *quovis modo*; and I flatter myself our late great successes at sea, and the vigorous measures now pursued both by England and Holland, will conduce much to make the French listen to reasonable terms of accommodation. I think the force now going to the East Indies under Rear-Admiral Boscawen's command will make them tremble for their *Compagnie des Indes*, the destruction of which, besides the ruin of their principal merchants, will greatly lessen the King's revenue. We are much obliged to you for your kindness to Leveson: I hope and believe he will deserve it of you; I believe he will return to you before you will set out for Aix-la-Chapelle. As for the last paragraph of your letter, I can assure you I shall do every thing in my power to

1747.

1747. settle it in the way you propose, and quite agree with you that the person or persons to be joined with you should be those in whom you can place an entire confidence, otherwise I foresee great confusion and uneasiness, and no good prospect of success in your negotiations. The two you have named are both unexceptionable, and I should be very happy in seeing either of them joined with you: my personal friendship for one of them you are well acquainted with. I hope you are satisfied on your side of the water with what we have done about Mr. Mitchell's squadron: I am sure you cannot think it reasonable to expect us to keep our ships on the coast of Zealand for their protection, when the Holland and Zealand ships will stay no longer themselves. We have a letter from him to-day confirming what he had before wrote, and which I must own I could hardly believe, that the Dutch admirals had informed him that in case of a severe frost, they had received orders to quit the coasts of Zealand, and come into the ports of England for shelter. I have this day had an opportunity of making Mr. Edward Smith, whom you recommended to me, a purser, though I have not made one before these many months.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

1747.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hague, December 23. 1747.

My dear Lord,

I was in hopes by the letters I had the honour of receiving by the last post from his Royal Highness and the Duke of Newcastle, that I should have received instructions of a different nature than those I got by the mail which came in this morning. I had managed the intimation I had received from the two letters with regard to the additional subsidy to be paid to the Austrians, so as in a manner to engage the Prince of Orange to settle the contingent of the republic at 70,000 men, in return for this increase of ours; but I am now told that this is not to be considered as an increase of the King's contingent, and that I am to insist upon the republic paying half the subsidy, which is absolutely impracticable, and I own in my opinion unjust. The proportion of future expenses was settled by my Lord Chesterfield himself, when the circumstances of this government were by no means so desperate as they now are; judge then whether it is reasonable at this time to expect that I can engage them to a higher proportion: besides, to consider this question in another light, the point in dispute is 25,000 pounds and no more, and if that is insisted upon, the consequences are that we shall have 8000 men less in the field, that we shall have an immense disproportion of cavalry with regard to our in-

1747. fantry, that the march of the Russians through the empire will be liable to be contested by every ill-intentioned German Prince, and that the Empress will set out professedly with declaring that she is not in a condition with her present revenue to go through the expense of the campaign, and will be teasing you continually till you allow her the additional subsidy, when it will be too late to reap any of the advantages that may be expected from it.

The answer I have with regard to the prohibition of trade is full as insufficient to answer the purposes which I should think you must have at heart: for God's sake, my dear Lord, as this is in your department, take the resolution of the States which I sent to my Lord Chesterfield in my letter of the 8th of this month, into your consideration, and let me have a formal answer upon this important business. The Dutch desire our advice whether they shall not make the prohibition general, and how they shall behave to neutral ships; and I am desired in answer to receive the Pensionary's farther thoughts in what manner any concert can be formed to prevent neutral nations from running away with our trade. The Pensionary and all the trading part of this nation have, much against their will, come into the idea of the prohibition in any shape, so that it is not natural to imagine that they will explain themselves first, or give any further opinion than what is contained in that resolution; and I own I cannot think that you can desire to have this

affair in a better situation than referred, as it now is, to your decision. If your Grace finds that I am likely to be enabled by the answer to my despatch of this day's date to do any good in this affair, I beg you would order Mr. Corbett to send me the act of parliament that was made to prohibit trade with France, the smuggling act, and a copy of one of the passports, or order of council concerning the tobacco ships, if they are still to be allowed to go to France, which I own I always disapproved, and considered as a measure calculated to oblige some particular people, and which at the same time, with regard to the Dutch, place us in the situation of complaining of their sending the commodities to the enemy, when we did the same thing ourselves. 1747.

The Duke of Newcastle's private letter which I received this morning is, I am sorry to see, a melancholy one, and indeed I fear in some of his melancholy considerations true: however, I adhere to what I have already said, that I think in general things go well here; but I hope my meaning will not be extended too far: for though I think that the Prince of Orange's disposition upon the great points of peace and war is just what it should be, yet I am far from saying that in the administration of affairs there is not often unpardonable mismanagement. The Prince takes more business upon himself than he has talents or constitution to execute, and has a jealousy in his temper, or rather a minute disposition, that makes him diffident of trusting particular branches of business to parti-

1747. cular people; the consequence of which often is, that the business is not done at all: however, Bentinck is in full credit, and indeed too much good cannot be said of that worthy man.

I am so much hurried that I have no time to say any thing more than to thank your Grace for your very kind letter which you wrote to me of the 26th of last month, and to assure you that

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, January 7. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As no mails are yet come in I have no foreign news to trouble your Grace with; the accounts which the Admiralty have had you will have received from thence: I could not, however, omit acquainting your Grace with every thing material that happens at home. Since I had the honour to see you I have talked very seriously, and in the best manner I could, to the King, upon the necessity of gaining, if possible, the King of Prussia, and removing every jealousy he may have conceived of the designs of the Queen of Hungary against him, and doubts about the consent of the maritime powers upon such an event. I succeeded better

than I had ever done before, or, indeed, than I 1748.
could have expected; and thereupon Lord Chesterfield has prepared a draught of instructions for the minister who is to go, which were considered the night before last by his Lordship, my Lord Chancellor, my brother, and myself: they are as strong and proper as is possible. They will this day be laid before the King, and I hope they will be approved. Amongst other things, the King of Prussia is to be assured that England and Holland will stand by him *against any power whatsoever* (which words I added to make it the more clear) that should attempt to disturb him in his possession of Silesia, &c.: this is as much as can be said, and I hope will have its effect.

I believe Mr. Villiers will be thought the most proper person to be employed upon this great and important occasion.

When this affair was over the other night, we talked in general of the conditions of peace to be agreed with our allies.

Those of mutual restitution, mentioned in the Prince of Orange's secret remarks, were approved without any reasoning upon them. The points that were chiefly talked on were those relating to Dunkirk and Furnes, and the establishment for D. Philip. The first, viz. Dunkirk and Furnes, were, to my great joy and satisfaction, given up as being improper to be yielded to. As to that of the establishment, we had some difference of opinion. It seemed to be the sense of my three colleagues, that in all

1748. events it should be yielded to if insisted upon, as it will be, by France; whereas my opinion was and is, that the giving up establishment or not to France and Spain in a general pacification should depend upon the condition we shall be in, by our armies in Flanders and Italy, to resist the forces of France, and prevent their making themselves absolute masters of the republic of Holland; which, I would yet flatter myself, may be done with success. However, we shall certainly know our strength and our weakness long before this negotiation of peace can be concluded. These are the only points of consequence depending, upon which no resolution is yet taken, or as I hope will be, before the opinion of the rest of the King's servants is also known.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, January 14. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter, and am very much obliged to you for your goodness to Mr. Omnes. I have another favour to beg of your Grace, which I have taken the liberty to put down in the enclosed note. The person, Lieutenant Russel, has a very good character, and poor Mr. Legge

was so good as to take him with him with an intention to prefer him. 1748.

He is a particular friend to one of the most considerable dissenters in Sussex, which obliges me to be much concerned for him.

The letters which I received last Sunday from my Lord Sandwich are very material, and I think much more favourable than the former. I take the liberty to send them to your Grace, by which you will see Lord Sandwich's opinion entirely agrees with ours relating to Prussia. I also send your Grace my answer, which I hope you will approve; especially what relates to Lord Sandwich's proposal of going to Prussia.

That affair, like every thing else, stands still, though the instructions have been unanimously agreed, and approved by the King. The person is not yet fixed, and it is hard that the whole load must lie upon me. I also send your Grace the letters I received the other day from Mr. Keene, and would submit a thought to your Grace which I have not yet mentioned to the King, or to my Lord Chesterfield and my brother. I am afraid we shall not be able to conclude any separate peace with Spain: but might it not be proper to have a person of confidence at Madrid to take hold of any favourable occasion that may offer, either in case the war should continue, or a general peace should be made? In the first case, I am persuaded Spain will be soon weary; in the next, if a general peace is made it would be right that the interests of Spain should

1748. not be entirely managed by France. The person I would suggest is my Lord Fane, who might go without a character, and take one when it is proper. I don't find there is any thought of sending another plenipotentiary to the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle. The town is very full of Lord Chesterfield's intention to resign the seals*: I hope it is without any foundation, for it would be a most unfortunate circumstance if it should happen. I have been a little more alarmed within these three days by something that my Lord Gower has dropped to my brother and my Lord Chancellor.

Every thing remains in the same unsettled way that it has been for some time, and, indeed, there is no administration; and at that rate there will be soon no government.

I take the liberty to unburden my thoughts always to your Grace with the utmost freedom;

And am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

* "He said" (Lord Chesterfield) "he was resolved to resign his office. I said I was extremely concerned to hear it, for our situation must then be hopeless, nor did I see where we had any resource.

He said what became of the other ministers was none of his business, but he could stay no longer in with reputation." — *Marchmont Papers*, vol. i. p. 262.

1748.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hague, January 16. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am in hopes that the materials contained in my last public letters will be of use to your Grace and our friends in England, since they prove plainly that the Prince of Orange has left nothing undone to increase the strength of the republic: to be sure the execution of all business here is attended with the most unreasonable delay, but it generally comes right at last; so that it is not fair to judge too hastily on your side of the water, for by that means you often misinterpret negligence into bad intention.

I never in my life saw a harder frost than the present; and as we learn from all quarters that the enemy remain quiet where they are, the idea of a winter attack begins to pass over, and the minds of all people here to be at ease with regard to any danger of that sort. The Prince of Orange has been with reason blamed for trusting the defence of the most important places to improper people; and I think that at present we have reason to expect a little praise for the judicious choice, lately made, of those who are to defend the towns that were thought to be in danger of an attack. Surely, if we get over the winter in safety, we can never be justified in making peace *quovis modo*, for no other interpretation can ever be given to our accepting the terms offered by M. Puisieux; and I cannot, for my own

1748. part, see how that can be done consistently with his Majesty's declaration at the opening of the parliament, that the terms offered by France were inadmissible. What ill success have we had since to authorise us to accept the terms which we then refused? For my own part, I think the prospect much mended; and, of course, our submitting at present much more inexcusable than it would have been some time ago. To begin with our sea operations, can things be better there (than) they now are: the French fleet ruined already, and the Dutch fairly engaged with us to complete the destruction of their trade. You have an auxiliary squadron with orders and in a condition to act, which squadron will be increased in the summer by drawing off some of the ships which will, in that season, be unnecessary for the defence of Zealand. Besides, the Dutch are fitting out privateers in all their ports, and consider themselves as in an actual state of war. And your Grace knows that the Prince has engaged that, when our preparations for the opening of (the) campaign are made, not even the name of a declaration of war shall be wanting. With all this force, how can the French ever expect to get a convoy out or home in safety? And without their trade, where will they find resources to supply the vast expenses they are obliged to incur? Besides, I should think that, unless our case was absolutely desperate, it would be worth while to wait a little in order to give time to Mr. Boscawen to strike his blow, from which we have reason to expect the greatest national advan-

tage that can happen to us, the ruin of the French credit; and I own I think it is incumbent upon us to leave nothing undone to effect that purpose: for if it shall appear that the French can carry their credit unhurt through such a war as this, notwithstanding our vast superiority at sea, the consequence is too plain, that, after an advantageous peace, their credit will be more firmly established, and rise out of the ruin of ours. 1748.

As to our situation at land, all I contend for is, that it is no degree worse than when we rejected M. Puisieux's proposals, and I think that point is not difficult to prove. We have, since, two treaties signed with Russia; and notwithstanding what may be said to the contrary, it is reasonable to imagine the first thirty thousand men will join us, if not at the beginning, at least pretty early in the campaign, and I think you will be convinced by the terms of the second convention, that the Czarina is very well disposed towards endeavouring to keep the King of Prussia in awe. We are told, indeed, that that Prince is meditating some bad design, but we hear, at the same time, and from the same hand, that he has not yet taken his part, and that there is still room to engage him in measures advantageous to us. If that is the case, a moment ought not to be lost, nor any circumstance neglected, at least to keep him quiet. If that can be effected, I am sure we are not low enough yet to submit to the very bad terms which have been offered us; and, till it is tried, the prepossession at home will be that it was

1748. not impracticable. As to the danger of a winter attack, you must begin to join with us in thinking that it is not now so much to be apprehended as it has been, and that the dispositions for our defence are now something better laid and executed than formerly, and the attention of the Prince more seriously and effectually turned to the re-establishment of the military affairs of the republic, than it was at first setting out; and you will see by this last regulation about the broken battalions, and those that are prisoners in France, that it is his intention not to have an army upon paper hereafter, but an effective force. I own I think it is no bad circumstance that the army of the republic will be now above two thirds composed of foreign troops, which will be better for service, and more easily recruited, than their national corps.

In Italy I think it is reasonable to hope things may remain as they are; that is, that nothing material will be done offensively by the Allies, and on the other side that the enemy will be still shut out of Italy: I think one must be sanguine to expect any thing more, but even that is a great article in our favour, in comparison of what was the case two years ago; and whether we succeed in any offensive measures or not, our having a considerable army in the field will always effect a diversion, which is the best thing that I have for some time hoped for from our disunited force on that side. Upon the whole, I most earnestly hope you will not precipitate matters when they are less

desperate than they have been. I can easily conceive the difficult part that your Grace, and the few who are still inclined to endeavour to resist the threatening danger for a bad peace, have to act; but the reputation that will be acquired, and the self-satisfaction that you must, of course, receive, from having had the firmness to oppose the torrent of misled or ill-designing people, will surely sufficiently repay you for your present trouble and vexation. As I consider myself one of the persons most immediately concerned in the conclusion of this great work of a general peace (I mean so as to be the first victim of public censure and reproach), perhaps I see the question in stronger colours than other people, and on that consideration I must appeal to your Grace's indulgence to plead my excuse, if I have in any part of this letter expressed myself in improper terms: I assure your Grace all I say flows from my own real conviction, and from my inclination to do my duty, and maintain that character which, I flatter myself, has obtained me the honour of your Grace's friendship.

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

1748.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

London, January 28. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As my friend Legge† will, in all probability, have the pleasure of seeing you at the Hague in a few days from hence, I cannot forbear taking hold of this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of your letters of the 5th and 22d instant, O. S. At the same time, give me leave, my dear Lord, to open my thoughts without reserve to you, and explain to you how far I agree in the warlike measures now in vogue at the Hague, and in what I differ from them. You know very well that during the course of the last summer I was most active, as well for hiring the Russians as for all other methods that could contribute to the giving us an equality, or (if possible) a superiority, to the French in the Low Countries, this ensuing campaign. Thank God, every thing seems to promise the completion of that desirable event, as much, or even more, than we could reasonably expect. But does it follow that because this force is obtained we shall (notwithstanding

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

† Mr. Legge resided for a short time as minister at Berlin. Walpole says of him, "Legge is certainly a wise choice; nobody has better parts; and if art and industry can obtain success, I know no one would use more." — *Letters*, vol. ii. p. 209. Lord Chatham

says of him, "There is capacity, integrity, quality, rank, and address." — *Chatham Correspondence*, vol. i. p. 27. Coxe however states, "that though a man of great talents for business, he was unfit for a foreign mission, which only exposed him to the caprice and insolence of the Prussian monarch."

the experience of former campaigns) hazard this great force (which without striking a blow might obtain us an admissible peace) in the event of another campaign? Consider what would be the consequence to this country, if, at the end of next summer, things should stand in the very same situation that they did at the end of the last campaign. This is undoubtedly a fair supposition; for I don't find any one sanguine enough to flatter us with a sufficient superiority over the French, to oblige them to make this an active campaign, except they are willing to make it so themselves. Should they lie only on the defensive, does your Lordship think the allied army would be able to make any great progress towards retaking the barrier, considering the number of strong places they are now possessed of, and our great inexperience in carrying on of sieges? Should the campaign turn out in the manner I have here set down (and by the way it may possibly turn out much worse should the enemy gain another battle), what terms of peace must England then expect? Is it possible for us, without absolutely undoing ourselves and mortgaging all we are worth, to raise another eleven millions? I say, without absolutely undoing ourselves; for I am one of those who believe the money might be raised, though on very disadvantageous terms, another year; but what would be the consequences of that? The interest of our debt would grow so great, as to oblige us to keep up for the payment of that interest as heavy taxes in time

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CORRESPONDENCE OF

of peace as we labour under in time of war; and I am sure I need not tell your Lordship what would be the consequence of this. A man of 1000*l.* a year may mortgage 800*l.* of it, and still have 200*l.* left for his own maintenance: but when he comes to mortgage the remaining part, that was left to satisfy the interest due to the mortgagees, he is an undone man. I must own, I think the case of the public (if we go on the principle of loans, and without it the money cannot be raised,) very similar to the above. I have stated in private life. Your Lordship will begin to be out of humour at reading this, and begin to think me one willing to consent to a peace *quorvis modo*. That is far from being my sentiment, because I think it appears, by the accounts you give us, we shall have strength enough in the field to give weight to our negotiations, and to obtain this summer for us and our allies a peace on admissible terms. These may be still mended, in case our friend Legge succeeds, in his mission to the King of Prussia; and I think might be still more mended, were all the King's servants hardy enough to make a separate and a good peace with Spain, which I am confident they might do, by giving up Gibraltar; and for which, I doubt not, valuable concessions in trade might be obtained in the West Indies. I must own that place seems to me to be of very little or no utility to this country, and that the cession of it to Spain would not be near so dangerous as that of Louisbourg to the French. When I mention Louisbourg, I mean it

undemolished; for was it otherwise, as I once advised, I should not much care who had the possession of *L'Isle Royale*. The Duchess and I are both infinitely obliged to you for your goodness to Mr. Leveson. We think him very much improved, and are very happy to find you are satisfied with him. I hope he will make a good figure in life: if he does, it will be wholly owing to your Lordship: for in the way he was before he went abroad with you, he must inevitably have been spoiled. I wish you would talk to him about economy, for he has drawn another note on Lord Gower for 50*l.*, which makes him very uneasy. I believe your Lordship did not thoroughly understand the purport of Mr. Fann's letter, as he desires to make an exchange with the present register, Mr. Woodward, for the place of receiver, which is but just now vacated, and which I believe it would be difficult to obtain for him. Besides, could the thing have been effected, Mr. Woodward would by no means consent to it; and he has no reason to be complaisant to Mr. Fann, who got the auditor's place for himself, which before used to go along with the register's. I am afraid, by what information I can get, you will find it impossible to fix Mr. Fann, as he is a vain, superficial fellow, and sets himself in opposition to some of your friends in that county.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

1748.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, February 5. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I thank you kindly for the perusal of your Grace's letter to Lord Sandwich: I never read a clearer letter in my life; and though I can't quite agree in every part or principle of it, it will certainly do Sandwich good. I own, if we have the force your Grace mentions, and I think we shall certainly have it, I can scarce foresee any probability of an event which can prevent our having at least as good a peace, and perhaps a better, at the end of the campaign, than that which is now opened, and some would now accept.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Friday, eight o'clock, February 5. 1748.

My Lord Duke,

When your Grace had left us yesterday the conversation continued about the intended change; and as the difficulties of Lord Sandwich's succeeding to the office his friends wish him seemed hardly to be got over, I could not help saying that I imagined his Lordship would be extremely dissatis-

fied to be overlooked and taken no notice of in the alterations that will be made, and therefore mentioned the expedient that I think the only one to extricate the ministry out of their present difficulties, and the different claims that cannot fail to be made for the office that will be vacant—I mean prevailing upon your Grace to accept it. His Grace asked me if I had heard you mention any thing about it. I told him no; for that my opinion was that nothing could induce you to accept it but the great friendship you had for Sandwich, which I apprehended would carry you any way against your inclinations. Your Grace will easily imagine that I cannot help seeing how much the foundation of the Admiralty will be weakened whenever I shall have the misfortune to see you moved from the Board; but as I owe every thing to your favour and protection, my friendship to your Grace and Sandwich will end but with my last breath.

I am, &c.

ANSON.

I beg my compliments to the Duchess. I am just stepping into my post-chaise, and fear you will not be able to decipher my scroll.

1748.

PROPOSAL CARRIED FROM H.R.H., BY LORD TALBOT
AND SIR FRANCIS DASHWOOD TO———.*

February 8. 1748.

[In the Duke of Bedford's handwriting.]

His Royal Highness has authorised Lord Talbot and Sir Francis Dashwood to give the most positive assurances to the gentlemen in the opposition of his upright intentions; that he is thoroughly convinced of the distress and calamities that have befallen and are more likely every day to befall his country from party and faction and a general depravity of morals, diffused throughout this country, and therefore invites all wellwishers to this country and constitution to unite and coalesce with him on the following principles only.

1st. H. R. H. promises and will declare it solemnly and openly, that it is his intention totally to abolish for the future all distinction of party (and as far as it lies in his power), to take for ever away all proscription from any set of men whatever, who are friends to the constitution, and therefore will promote for the present (and when in his power will immediately grant) a bill to empower all gentlemen to act as justices of the peace paying land tax for 300*l.* a year in any county where he intends to act.

* It does not appear how this paper came into the possession of the Duke of Bedford. It seems to be a project of Frederic Prince of Wales to form a party against his father.

2d. H. R. H. promises in like manner to support a bill and forthwith pass it (whenever we shall have the misfortune to lose his Majesty), to exercise and establish a numerous militia throughout this kingdom. 1748.

3d. H. R. H. promises in like manner to support and promote, and likewise grant (when it is in his power), a bill to exclude all military officers in the land service under the degree of colonel of a regiment, and in the sea service under the degree of rear-admiral, from sitting in the House of Commons.

4th. H. R. H. promises that he will, when in his power, immediately grant inquiries into the great number of abuses in offices, and does not doubt of the assistance of all honest men to enable him to reform and correct the same for the future.

5th. H. R. H. promises and will openly declare, that he will make no agreement with, or join in support of any administration whatsoever, without previously obtaining the above-mentioned points in behalf of the people, and for the sake of good government. Upon these conditions, and these conditions only, H. R. H. thinks he has a right not to doubt of a most cordial support from those good men who mean well to their country and this constitution, and they will become his and his family's friends, and unite with him to promote the good government of this country, and that they will follow him in these principles both in court and out of court, and if he shall live to form an administra-

1748. tion, it shall be composed, without distinction, of
 ——— men of dignity, knowledge, and probity.

6th. H. R. H. further promises to accept of no more (if offered him) than 800,000*l.* per annum for his civil list, by way of rent-charge.

N. B. The original of this paper was read by the Prince of Wales, and agreed to by Lord Talbot, Lord Baltimore, Dr. Lee, and Sir Francis Dashwood, on the 4th of June, 1747, at 10 o'clock at night at Carlton House, and being again renewed, the following answer was sent in, Feb. 8. 1748.

THE ANSWER.

The lords and gentlemen to whom a paper has been communicated containing H. R. H. the Prince's gracious intentions upon several weighty and important points of the greatest consequence to the honour and interest of his Majesty's government, and absolutely necessary for the restoring and perpetuating the true use of parliaments, the security of our excellent constitution, and the happiness and welfare of the whole nation, do therein with the greatest satisfaction observe, and most gratefully acknowledge, the uprightness and generosity of H. R. H.'s noble sentiments and resolutions, and therefore beg leave to return their most dutiful and humble thanks for the same, and to assure H. R. H. that they will constantly and steadily use their ut-

most endeavours to support his wise and salutary purposes, that the throne may be strengthened, religion and morality encouraged, faction and corruption destroyed, the purity and union of parliament restored, and the happiness and welfare of our constitution preserved. 1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

Newcastle House, February 12. 1747-8.

My dear Lord,

I have only time by this night's post to inform your Lordship, that the King has been graciously pleased to-day to give me the seals, upon the vacancy occasioned by Lord Chesterfield's resignation. I can with truth assure you, that nothing could have prevailed upon me to have accepted of this employment, had I not found it at present impracticable for your being appointed to it†, as I am sure you are infinitely more capable than me of discharging a trust of so great consequence to the public; but I was really apprehensive that my declining it might make way for some

* From the Earl of Sandwich's Collection.

† "The expected vacancy of the seals occasioned great cabals. Lord Sandwich was intended for the post by the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Newcastle, who were at that time closely

united, but they could not venture openly to declare their intentions, because he was no favourite with the king, and was disliked by the pacific members of the cabinet." *Coxe's Memoirs of Lord Walpole*, vol. ii. p. 286.

1748. — other person who would not so easily have quitted it to your Lordship, as I shall be willing to do whenever the circumstances of affairs will permit me to do it. Give me leave now most sincerely to congratulate your Lordship on your being placed at the head of the Admiralty; which I hope, and I don't doubt, will continue to flourish under your administration. When I am more at leisure, I shall be obliged to trouble you with some few Admiralty favours I must ask, which I have left undone.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Bath, February 13. 1747-8.

My Lord Duke,

I have great hopes that your Grace will be prevailed upon by your friends to put an end to the present struggles and competitions by accepting the Secretary of State's office. It seemed to me a thing impracticable for Lord Sandwich to get advanced in the state by any other means, at least as I stood informed the morning I left the town; and if the office should be filled up by any other than your Grace, Lord Sandwich must lose more ground than he would probably be able to regain in many years to come. It will give me great satisfaction to hear that all the spirits are quieted that have been afloat

on this occasion. I think I found more benefit 1748.
 from my journey than I have done by the waters as
 yet. If I am wanted upon any occasion I shall be
 ready to come to town at a minute's warning, and
 own I am very uneasy to be absent (for many
 reasons) at this time. I hope the Duchess, Lord
 Tavistock, and Lady Caroline are well, and beg my
 compliments to them; being, &c. &c.

ANSON.

ADMIRAL ANSON TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Bath, February 14. 1748.

My Lord Duke,

Your Grace's letter, which I read this morn-
 ing, gave me great satisfaction, as I dare say the
 news of your having the seals will to the whole
 kingdom, except the candidates against Lord Sand-
 wich: there was no other way of serving him but
 taking this trouble upon yourself; and I have
 always wished, since you have ventured upon the
 stage, that you would act the highest characters for
 the sake of the public.

I am, &c.

ANSON.

1748.

MR. WALPOLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Cockpit, March 3. 1748.

My Lord,

Although I have had the honour to be known some years to your Grace, I did not think myself upon such a foot of freedom, as to presume to trouble you with my notions upon the melancholy state of affairs, until your Grace's station might in some degree excuse that liberty, and I had obtained, by Lord Gower's means, your leave for that purpose.

The packet that accompanies this letter contains what a restless zeal, and attachment to his Majesty's government and the good of my country, forced me in a manner to lay before H. R. H. the Duke of Cumberland, as being immediately concerned in the events of this unfortunate war, that I might discharge my duty, though a passenger only, by contributing my poor endeavours to help the ship labouring with the utmost distress in a most violent storm; and which, I hope, will at last be preserved from being entirely lost, now it is put in a great measure under your Grace's steerage.

I am, &c.

H. WALPOLE.

P. S. Your Grace will be so good, after perusal, as to return me the packet at your leisure.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

Hague, March 5. 1748.

My dear Lord,

Every day of my life lays me under fresh obligations to your Grace. I am sure no one before me ever met with such a friend as I have in you; and I believe I may safely add, that no one ever had higher sentiments of gratitude towards another than I have for your Grace, whose protection has been on so many occasions my effectual support.

I should deservedly be judged a very unreasonable person if I was not thoroughly happy with the whole arrangement, in consequence of the late change. The part I bear in it very fully satisfies my views, both of ambition and interest; and those who know the reason I have to esteem your Grace in the manner I do must easily conceive the great satisfaction I must feel to see the public affairs in the hands they now are, and where it is my sincere wish, and shall be my endeavour, that they may long continue.

I hope your Grace will not, for the future, talk of asking favours of the Admiralty. I flatter myself you will still honour us with your protection, and that you will think, as I do, that you have a right there, and every where else, to lay your commands upon me; and for my own part, I can safely assure you, that I can have no greater pleasure than by having frequent opportunities to manifest my readiness to follow your directions, to give some

1748, small proof of the esteem and gratitude with which
I shall ever remain, &c.

SANDWICH.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Achill, March 16. 1748.

My dear Lord,

Cleverly the messenger overtook me at this place, with your Grace's very obliging letter of the 28th of last month; and, though I have very little time to spare, I cannot help catching a moment to return your Grace my sincere thanks for the friendly advice you gave me in it. I can assure your Grace that those who think I will neglect any opportunities of putting an end to our present distressed situation do me much injury; and I flatter myself that your Grace, who has upon every occasion shown yourself so effectually my protector will continue your friendship to me by contradicting all such intimations. I fear the distress of our finances is such as you represent them to be, but I must beg your Grace not to suffer one argument (which I find is made use of) to prevail, namely, our having neglected an opportunity to conclude. It is very far from being clear that those hard conditions offered by France last summer could have been obtained: those who are used to negotiations

with that deceitful power know very well that there is little dependence upon their proposals and promises, if their interest directs them to act contrary to them; and if those proposals had had the effect they desired, of engaging us to treat, and at the same time to neglect our military preparations, it would have been their interest to rise in their demands; and I own it is my firm opinion that peace would have been at much a greater distance at this period, if we had entered more deeply into those measures, than it now is; and for my own part I cannot think that till now there has ever been a prospect of coming to a conclusion. If any terms are rejected at Aix-la-Chapelle, then you may say that an opportunity has been missed; but till then I think it is a little unfair to judge us upon supposed facts. In that case, those who are for continuing the war, if the conditions of peace are any way tolerable, might perhaps be blamable; but till then I flatter myself your Grace will indulge me with your protection, and not suffer my enemies to run away with a notion that any thing has been omitted that can tend to the relieving the public from the burdens it at present labours under.

As to Gibraltar, my opinion upon that article is known long ago, and I agree in every tittle with what your Grace says upon the subject. When I was at Breda I could have obtained whatever I asked for our trade in America, and a formal guarantee of all our present possessions (Louisbourg

1748. included), and a defensive alliance with Spain, in support of that guarantee, besides which the Spanish army in Italy was to be withdrawn, and no real establishment for Don Philip talked of: this Macanas would have signed to at an hour's notice, but how the present disposition of Spain may be, I don't know; yet I think Gibraltar is so favourite a point with them, that I cannot help thinking it would still have the same effect. For this reason I own nothing would give me so great hopes of coming well out of our present difficulties, as receiving orders to sound M. Massano* upon that article, and to conclude separately with him, if I could obtain the conditions offered by Macanas, in consequence of that restitution.

I could add sheets of paper upon this question; but my time is so short that I am obliged to end with the very sincere assurances of my being

Your Grace's most faithful, &c.

SANDWICH.

Your Grace has set me right about Fann. I read over his letter in a hurry, and did not consider it sufficiently, or recollect that Woodward was the other person in question.

* Spanish Minister at the Hague.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

(Private.)

Aix-la-Chapelle, March 17. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As Mr. Keith will probably remain at the Hague as long as this negotiation lasts, which I flatter myself will be the whole period of my continuance out of England, perhaps your Grace might not think it an improper opportunity to give our friend Leveson some little introduction into employment. I must now depend chiefly on his assistance and that of my cousin Wortley; and I should not think it would be considered as an unreasonable proposition if your Grace would get them both nominated *secrétaires d'ambassade*, with the appointment that Keith had divided between both. I don't mean but that I had rather they should each of them have the whole salary annexed to that character, but I never love to ask too much, and, in reality, as the thing can be only considered as an introduction for both of them, I don't think the money the most material part. Upon this foot, I believe, it would be about 300*l.* a year to each, which would be an addition to Leveson's income that would render the drafts upon my Lord Gower, which your Grace mentioned in your last letter, less frequent; though, without my friend has some addition of this sort, I cannot possibly take his Lordship's part in the discussion about the too great frequency of the demands from

1748. — hence. If this affair can be settled in this or any other way that your Grace (to whose direction I leave the matter entirely) shall judge proper, I may possibly be persuaded to tell my friend he does wrong if he draws on my Lord for more than a thousand pounds a year; but otherwise, I must stick by my companion, and rather desire your Grace to represent to my Lord the great expense of a congress, and the impossibility for a man of spirit to make a proper figure without unlimited credit at home.

I have recommended Leveson and Wortley in general terms to the Duke of Newcastle; but, as I have said before, I leave the matter entirely to your Grace to be settled in whatever way, or in no way at all, as you shall think proper; and I shall be fully satisfied with your disposition, whatever it shall be.

I am, &c.
SANDWICH.

MR. STONE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Whitehall, March 26. 1748.

My Lord,

The two mails which arrived very late last night brought very material letters from H. R. H. the Duke and my Lord Sandwich. My Lord Duke sent them this morning to Bedford House; but your

Grace being gone out of town, my Lord Duke has ordered me to give your Grace some account of the contents of them, till he shall be able to send you the despatches, as he proposes to do to-morrow from Claremont. 1748.

His Royal Highness has been very dangerously ill with a fever and inflammation in the kidneys, but is in so good a way that it is not doubted but that a very few days will complete his recovery. The Prince of Orange has been also much indisposed, and M. Bathiani is still laid up with the gout.

His Royal Highness gives a very melancholy account of the state of things in Holland. He sends a list of their troops for the service of this campaign, the amount of which I do not remember; and it is the less material, as H. R. H. says he has too much reason to look upon it as a mere paper list; since, so lately as Tuesday last, "they could not show him the possibility of getting together 10,000 men in three weeks from that time." On the other side, they have intelligence that M. Lowendal was to march on Tuesday last with 25,000 men, in order, as was given out, to escort a convoy to Bergen-op-Zoom; but his real design was apprehended to be to attack Rosendal and Oudenbosch: and as the Dutch were not in a condition to defend those posts, it was judged necessary to employ eleven battalions and as many squadrons, which were designed to have been cantoned on the Meuse, for the protection of the places above mentioned, by which

1748. means H. R. H. thinks there will be nothing to fear, at present, on that side; but that the army on the Meuse is so weakened, that he cannot answer for the safety of Maestricht, which he thinks, on the contrary, in great danger. H. R. H. complains greatly of the unaccountable slackness and inaction of the government of Holland, which increases daily, and makes all kind of business impracticable.

I come now to my Lord Sandwich's letters. He has had a private conference with St. Severin, who told him very frankly that his court would make peace upon the conditions offered last year at Liege (which are better known by the name of M. Saxe's plan), and that he was ready to give a paper at the opening of the conference to that effect. My Lord Sandwich objected strongly to the demand of an establishment for D. Philip, which was implied in that plan, and insisted that Final should remain in the hands of the King of Sardinia. But upon both these points the French minister was inflexible, and said that each of those points, viz. the finding an establishment for the Infant, and the full restitution of Final and all the conquests made upon the Genoese, was to be considered as a *conditio sine quâ non*. Upon the whole, my Lord Sandwich thinks that if we could and would yield those two points, the peace would be immediately made; and, in all events, he thinks it a good circumstance that France has not heightened her demands since last year; and, if the events of the campaign are in our favour, he hopes they may even abate of what they

now demand. Lord Sandwich has sounded the Austrian and Sardinian ministers upon the conditions of peace (but without telling them what has passed with St. Severin upon that subject), and their manner of talking upon it does not seem as if they would be disposed to facilitate it upon such terms as are likely to be obtained, even though no misfortune should happen; though by what Sir Thomas Robinson writes, the court of Vienna seem to be fully convinced of the necessity of putting an end to the war. 1748.

Sir Charles H. Williams says that the march of the Russians has been somewhat retarded by a sudden thaw in Poland, so that they will not reach Warsaw so soon as was expected. He now calculates their arrival in the Low Countries for about the middle of June.

I am, &c.

ANDREW STONE.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hague, March $\frac{17}{28}$. 1748.

My dear Lord,

Though my political correspondence is by the laws of office in a manner appropriated, my personal one has a right to follow my own inclination and affection, and while that is the case cannot but be devoted to your Grace. Upon the strength,

1748. therefore, of this distinction, I shall take the liberty of writing to you during the future course of my adventures much oftener than your present occupations will render quite convenient to you; and as I know what I say to you is as if I had never said it, and beg as a favour that you will not take the trouble of answering my epistles, I shall neither fear nor scruple to communicate my thoughts pretty frequently. Things here, by dint of going much worse than could possibly have been imagined, will, I believe in the end, go better than was expected. Every body begins to be convinced that it is impossible to go on, and that effect could not have fallen shorter of promise and expectation if we had tied ourselves fast to a dead corpse, and called it our ally, than it will do in the present case. Men, money, and resolution, are the three trifles wanting, and barring those deficiencies, every thing here is in an admirable posture for making a vigorous defence. I shall set out in an hour for Aix. I have been detained so long, merely to get the matters settled here, which relate to the part the republic is to take with us at Berlin; and had I stirred a step till it was concluded, I am very sure the whole affair would have fallen fast asleep, for you must know the civil lethargy of this country is full as profound as the military. His serene Highness has received me very graciously as an old acquaintance, and one he knows wishes him well. He does me justice in this supposition, and therefore I can't help wishing he would abate a

little of the serenity of his style, and not remain 1748.
 playing at stadtholder, receiving deputations, and
 deliberating without determining, till the Gauls
 come and pull him by the beard in his senate house.
 I hope to see Lord Sandwich in five or six days at
 furthest: he has certainly been deceived (I don't
 wonder at it) by the blustering language that has
 been talked here in the winter, and by the large
 and formal declarations of the strength of this
 country. When he knows how little it will prove
 when realised, he has too much sense not to see
 what is obvious to men of much inferior capacity.
 I long very much to see him, and I know he is in
 the same disposition towards me. I cannot feel
 that I have the use of my fingers in this land of
 ice without sentiments of gratitude towards the
 muff; and begging my most humble respects to the
 Duchess of Bedford,

I am, &c.

H. LEGGE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
 BEDFORD.

Claremont, March 27. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I send your Grace herewith my private
 letters from the Duke and Lord Sandwich, and ter-
 rible ones the first are. I had sent them sooner,

1748. but I have been all this morning preparing a long despatch to my Lord Sandwich, which I fancy your Grace will approve. The purport of it is, immediately to propose to our allies the concluding upon the foot of mutual restitution, and giving Parma and Placentia to Don Philip, and Final to the King of Sardinia. The Duke, your Grace sees, is for making an immediate end. I always knew he would be so when he saw the necessity. Our good friend Sandwich will still amuse himself with hopes. The Duke's letter may cure them. Pray send this packet early to-morrow morning to my office.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. STONE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Whitehall, Tuesday morning, April 5. 1748.

My Lord,

The Dutch mail came in last night past twelve o'clock. I was at Newcastle House; and as the letters were sent to the King directly from the office, had no opportunity of obeying your Grace's commands to give you an account of the contents of them.

Maestricht is invested by M. Saxe with 80,000 men. H. R. H. finds himself in no condition to attempt to relieve it; the whole force that could be mustered up for that service amounting only to

35,000 men. The whole French army is in motion in different corps, commanded by Marshal d'Etrées, &c. &c.; but I cannot give your Grace the particulars of what H. R. H. writes on that head. 1748.

My Lord Sandwich has had another conference with St. Severin, who told him he expected very soon the arrival of the Spanish minister at Aix. The points of the *establishment* and of *Final* were again debated, and Lord Sandwich seems (I think) to have now no hopes of making him recede on either of those points. Mention was made of the article in M. Saxe's paper relating to the alternative of *Furnes* and *Dunkirk*. St. Severin now gives up *Furnes*, and insists peremptorily upon fortifying *Dunkirk*; that they gave up that article after an *unsuccessful* war, and have a right to change it after a *successful* one. Mention was also made of the *Pretender's posterity*, upon which the French minister objected and chicaned; but Lord Sandwich does not think that that will be a substantial difficulty if other points can be settled.

I am, &c.

ANDREW STONE.

H. R. H. says that *Maestricht ought to hold out a month*, especially as *Chanclos* had the good luck to get a quantity of ammunition into the town the day before it was invested.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

Woburn Abbey, April 6. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As I have got leave of absence from London for a few days, I think I cannot employ my evenings better than in writing in answer to your Lordship's letters of the 23d of February and 5th and 6th of last month; though possibly you may think, as I can send you nothing material, that my time would have been better employed any other way, than in making you mis-spend yours in the reading of this. Though I say there will be nothing material in my letter, I do not mean by that that I shall not mention things of infinite consequence as well to yourself as to the public; but as this only comes to you as from one friend to another, and will contain only suggestions upon the present crisis of affairs, which you are at liberty to disregard, in case they do not strike you in the same light they do me, I think I am very well justified in calling this an immaterial letter.

The extraordinary paper, called a *Mémoire Instructif*, which M. Charles Bentinck brought over with him, and which was undoubtedly drawn up by the Stadtholder himself as a direction for Bentinck's negotiations here, was the first thing that convinced me of the absolute inability of Holland, not only for the carrying on the war another campaign, but even

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

for the bringing her contingent (which she had during the course of the whole winter, as well through your channel as by Count Bentinck's letters, most faithfully promised should be ready by the latter end of March,) into the field, time enough to prevent the French from taking the poor remains of what barrier she has left. Your Lordship very well knows what my opinion was of the inability of England for carrying on the war, by my letter of so old a date as the 28th of January last. By this you will easily judge how the state of our affairs must appear to me, after the *Mémoire Instructif* came over, by which it did undoubtedly appear that the finances of Holland, by the confession of their own government, was, notwithstanding all their boastings of the immense sums they had raised by their *centième denier* and their lotteries, in a worse situation than those of England; which I had but a little while before represented to your Lordship as in a state very little distant from bankruptcy. It was, besides, I must own, very hurtful to me that such a paper as this should be brought over here by one of the persons intimately connected with all those from whom your Lordship had taken all your informations with regard to the state of Holland, and their abilities to carry on the present campaign during the course of this whole winter; and it did besides appear to me an aggravation to it, that this paper, which contradicted all you had been saying, was sent over without any previous communication of it to you. I think it needless, after what I have

1748.

1748. said already in relation to the first memoir, to take any farther notice of the second, than barely to observe that by it the republic owned herself a bankrupt, and that for the want of so small a sum as 300,000*l.*, and in some degree acknowledged herself incapable of fulfilling the engagements she had already contracted; one of which was her own favourite project of bringing the Russians into the Low Countries, though at the very same time she was pressing us to come into new expensive engagements, in conjunction with her, for giving a farther subsidy to the Elector of Cologne, and hiring the Munster troops. Unfortunately for England we are jointly and separately bound to the Czarina for the expenses attending the Russians; and I must own the court of Petersburg acted very ably in insisting upon our being bound, in case of failure in the Dutch, for the payment of the whole money. I must now proceed to their failure in the military, as they had before in the civil, part of their engagements. You very well know, my Lord, that it was secretly agreed last winter that the Stadtholder should command this present campaign an army of 50,000 men, part of the Dutch promised contingent, which was to be assembled in the month of March, or beginning of April at the latest, in the neighbourhood of Breda, in order to defend that part of the frontier; which would have given H. R. H. the Duke a power of assembling a sufficient army upon the Maese for the defence of Maestricht. How far these engagements have been fulfilled I need not

inform your Lordship, the fate of Maestricht will, I 1748.
fear, too soon do it; which, I believe, undoubtedly,
H. R. H. would have prevented, had he not been
obliged to leave a great part of the army destined
for this service in the neighbourhood of Breda, and
that owing to the Dutch having only (instead of
the promised 50,000 men) three battalions arrived,
and the *débris* of another, without arms, clothes, &c.
The result of this long detail (to which I could add
reams of paper) will be, my laying before you the
absolute necessity, I must own I see, of coming to
an immediate conclusion of the war upon the best
terms we can get; and without this, I must own to
you I do not see any hopes of salvation for us, as
every advantage the French gain, and advantages
they must and will gain by the superiority they
have over us, will give them a right, which they will
undoubtedly take, of rising in their demands upon
us: and in this place I must observe to your Lord-
ship, that by your very last letters, which arrived
but the day before yesterday, it appears M. St.
Severin talks rather in a higher strain than either
M. Saxe did to Sir John Ligonier, or M. Puisieux
to you. If this is the case at present, what must it
be, my dear Lord, after Maestricht is taken, and
when by that means the seven provinces themselves
lie almost open to the French, and we are cut off
from the succours expected from Russia and Ger-
many? My dear Lord, think of these things
seriously, as well in the public as in the private
light with regard to yourself. -- ck-

1748. wardness of yours, a favourable opportunity of concluding a peace should be lost, your country would be undone, and you would be the victim to her resentment.* I have but one thing more to add, but that I think is of great weight, and is the opinion of H. R. H. the Duke, who can never be surmised by any one to be a favourer of pacific schemes, did he see any possibility of carrying on the war with success.

After having detained you so long with a heap of indigested thoughts, I think myself obliged to release you with as short an answer as I can to the letters I have received from you; the receipt of which are acknowledged at the beginning of this. I am truly sensible, my dear Lord, of your kind expressions to me in your congratulatory letter, and am truly glad to find things were settled to your satisfaction upon Lord Chesterfield's resignation. Your letter from Achill gave me great pleasure, as I perceived by it your Lordship carried with you to Aix-la-Chapelle the pacific disposition I wished to find you in. With regard to your scheme for putting Dick Leveson and Mr. Wortley on the establishment, I will do all that lies in my power to forward it; but as it is not in my province, I can do nothing

* "The British cabinet," says Coxe, "unable either to check the progress of the hostile army, or to reconcile the discordant interests of the allies, determined, without the previous concurrence of the other powers, to accept the

conditions which France was disposed to grant. Instructions to that effect were transmitted by the Duke of Newcastle to Lord Sandwich on the 8th of April."—*Pelham Administration*, vol. i. p. 413.

more than putting the Duke of Newcastle frequently in mind of it. The Duchess will write to your Lordship about her brother, in return to the letter you favoured her with. I hope for his own sake, and in gratitude to your Lordship for the many favours he has received from you, Dick Leveson will be more cautious for the future, and not give you any more uneasiness upon his account.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, April 7. 1748.

My dear Lord,

The enclosed note, of a very material and confidential communication which I had this morning with M. Wasner and Count Flemming, will acquaint your Grace with the occasion of my sending this messenger to you. As soon as M. Wasner and Count Flemming left me, I immediately went to my Lord Chancellor and informed him (as I did afterwards the Duke of Dorset and my Lord Gower at court) of what had passed. They were all three strongly of opinion that orders should be sent to-morrow night, agreeably thereto, to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland and my Lord Sandwich. I afterwards communicated this note to

1748. the King, and his Majesty was himself entirely of the same opinion. I then desired his Majesty's leave to prepare a letter upon this foot for H. R. H. the Duke; which I would send to your Grace and to my brother (who is now at Esher) for your opinion; which I hoped to have, if not before I should wait upon his Majesty to-morrow, yet, in all events, before the post is despatched at night. Accordingly, I send your Grace the enclosed draught, and beg you would let me have your opinion upon it, with any alterations you may think proper to have made in it.

This messenger will be with your Grace very early to-morrow morning; and I beg you would redespach him as soon as you can have considered an affair of this importance. I have lost no time in transmitting this account to your Grace.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

[Note referred to in the above letter.]

Newcastle House, April 7. 1748.

M. Wasner and Count Flemming were with me this morning.

I acquainted Count Flemming with the alteration there seemed to be, by my Lord Sandwich's last letters, in their demands relating to Dunkirk; viz.

That they seemed now to expect, by M. St. Severin's discourse, to be at liberty to erect what fortifications they pleased, either to the land or sea, and, consequently, to restore the port and harbour. 1748.

Count Flemming told me he was persuaded that was not their intention; for that M. Puisieux had directly explained himself otherwise to him, and told him that all that they proposed was to be at liberty to spend ten or twelve millions, to erect fortifications on the side of the land; and that they would comply with the treaty of Utrecht with regard to the port and harbour: but they desired not to have commissaries to inspect them, which they thought dishonourable for France.

M. Wasner afterwards entered very seriously into the unfortunate situation of the republic of Holland; was apprehensive that Maestricht could not be relieved; and that the consequence of that might be the exposing the whole republic to the mercy of the French army; and therefore was very strongly of opinion, as a private person, that in this violent situation orders should be immediately sent to my Lord Sandwich, to make sure (as he called it), and to sign with M. St. Severin, upon the foot of my letter, of the 29th of March, to Lord Sandwich, departing from the article of Final; which Count Flemming, both from M. Puisieux and Marshal Saxe, was positive France would never consent to: and it is plain, from Count Flemming's discourse, that that was their resolution

1748. last year; and also to consent to their erecting fortifications at Dunkirk to the side of the land.

All this, on a supposition that H. R. H. the Duke of Cumberland shall be of opinion that if Maestricht is taken he cannot answer for covering the frontiers of Holland against the whole French army.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Aix-la-Chapelle, April 12. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I am in hopes my despatches of this date will give you some reason to think that a peace is not so distant as at first it seemed to be. Our having reduced the French minister within one point of the conditions, offered through the channel of the Venetian ambassador, gives us good foundation to flatter ourselves that his instructions are really such as will enable us to conclude: I am sure no one can wish it more than me; and I hope your Grace is convinced that I have not neglected an opportunity, or lost a single moment, in bringing matters to an explanation, and I cannot easily conceive that it could be expected I should have been able to get so far as I now have done, in so short a time. It must be some proof in favour of the measures

of those who, during the course of the winter, have encouraged military preparations, in order to give weight to our negotiation, that the event shows that they have in great measure had their effect; since we set out with the offer of a peace upon much better conditions than those we refused last year, which, if we had treated unarmed, would in my opinion scarcely have been the case. Had the Dutch kept up to their engagements, or even continued to wish for the support of the same system, to be sure things would have been much better than they now are; but even notwithstanding their weakness and falsehood, I think it is evident you see the worst that can befall you, and that that is not so bad as it might have been apprehended would have been the case. 1748.

I shall be very happy to hear that your Grace approves the steps I have taken in this negotiation, and that you are convinced that those who would represent me as a person disposed to continue the war at all events, have done my friends and me much injustice. No one, I am sure, can have principles more contrary to those than me; and I still carry it so much farther, as to think that none have so much proved the sincerity of their inclination for peace, as those who have promoted the only measures that could be likely to help us to attain that desirable end.

As I think, from the present state of this negotiation, that it is not unnatural to imagine we shall in a short time be able to sign preliminaries, your

1748. Grace will, I imagine, think it not premature in me to beg of you to use your influence for me to have leave to return to England whenever we have in that manner got over the material part of our business. It most extremely imports me to be on the spot when the first impressions are made concerning this important transaction; it may perhaps be of some service to the public that I may be present among you at that time: exclusive of which, the consequence it will be to my credit and future reputation to be in the way to speak for myself at such a conjuncture will be a circumstance which, from the strong marks of friendship which your Grace has always shown for me, I am inclined to think will, in some degree, weigh with your Grace to interest yourself in my behalf. Exclusive of this public consideration, there are some other reasons that make me wish to get from hence as soon as possible. I find my friend Legge has thoughts of being named to join me in this commission, upon his return from Berlin. He thinks I don't see through the meaning of that measure; but I am not so blind as he imagines, nor so unacquainted as I have appeared to him to be of his real disposition during the time of the late change in the ministry. As I am convinced from this circumstance that he means to take away any little credit that may be to be gained here, I think I am thoroughly to be justified in endeavouring to leave him to get through the dregs of the business as well as he can. I have no disposition to carry any resentment

of mine a step farther than that of taking early measures to secure myself, which my return to England, after the settling of the preliminaries, will certainly effect; and I give you my word that no one but your Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, and Lord Anson, shall ever know that I have any suspicion of the want of sincerity in a person from whom I ought to have expected a different sort of behaviour. 1748.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Hanover, April ¹⁴/₂₅. 1748.

My dear Lord,

By all I hear and have seen since I left England, peace will unavoidably make itself in a short time, so literally make itself, that I am very much afraid there will be little or none of our manufacture in it. This being the case, I am willing to extract as much private consolation as I can, out of an event which will afford but little to the public; and though I own a bad peace is one of the few things I would not give to have the pleasure of seeing you upon foreign ground, yet I can't help considering, among the agreeable consequences of any peace, the possibility of my waiting upon your Grace and the Duchess of Bedford

1748. at this place. I wish, before I leave it, which will be in an hour's time, that I could say any thing which might whet your inclination, or even excite your curiosity to come. In general I can assure you that you will find many entertainments here, and very agreeable people, of both genders, to converse with, and who have already added to the hope they have of seeing his Majesty, that of being known to the Duke and Duchess of Bedford. Perhaps I may have contributed a little to cultivate that inclination in them; but your Grace must forgive me, if I can't help setting myself off to advantage in foreign countries, by bragging a little of those friendships and connections which do me most credit at home. In the mean while I shall endeavour to qualify myself for your cicerone, by making the best provision of high Dutch I can for your service. Prussian history shall certainly not be wanting for your amusement; and if all I hear is true, Berlin is a place where a man may furnish himself with history and politics enough to make him no bad companion for the rest of his life. I hope to be there in four days at farthest, though I hear the roads are as bad as ever we remember Dunchurch Lane: however, if I do but escape political sloughs after I get there, it don't much signify if I am stuck now and then in my way thither.

I am, &c.

H. LEGGE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

(Private.)

Aix-la-Chapelle, May 5. 1748.

My dear Lord,

My last public despatches will have been the best answer I can make to your Grace's very friendly letter of the 6th of April, O. S. You will see by my behaviour the attention I have paid to your advice, in not suffering a favourable opportunity of making a peace to be lost.

I think, notwithstanding the unparalleled conduct of the Prince of Orange, and the total breach of all the promises made by the Dutch during the course of the last winter, we have got at least as good terms as those offered by Marshal Saxe and M. Puisieux; and we have now the additional argument in our favour of not having yielded to their conditions till it was brought to a demonstration that we had no resource but this left to extricate ourselves out of our difficulties. I value myself greatly upon my having been able to carry the Dutch along with us in this measure; no one could, I am sure, have carried that point except myself; and I with no other man than Bentinck, who leads Catwick as he pleases: as for the other (Hasselaer), he is ignorant of all that has passed, and has signed with the others, without knowing whether it is right or wrong.

I had wrote so much of this letter before I had signed the preliminaries; but I own I was so much

A A

1748. ————— dispirited afterwards, upon reflecting on the part we had acted with regard to our allies, and on account of the embarrassing instructions I received the next morning not to exceed my former orders by making any fresh concessions, that I had not courage to go through the letter. I am, however, greatly comforted by a very kind letter I have received from the Duke, who is so good as to express his approbation of all I have done, and his conviction that I had no other part left to act than that which I have acted. H. R. H.'s opinion and support will, I am sure, be a very great point in my favour; but I cannot, notwithstanding, at this very particular crisis of my life, omit addressing myself to your Grace for the continuance of your powerful protection. What I have done I have done for the best, and I hope my friends will think I deserve their support. Your Grace will see, that if I had had any scruple about finishing, I could have sheltered myself still under orders; but I think that would have been an ungenerous way of proceeding. I am convinced it is for his Majesty's interest, as well as for that of all my friends, that we should have a peace immediately; and on that account I have had no other point in view than the hastening to that purpose by the most expeditious way. However, the public will not be all equally pleased with what has passed, and it is for that reason that I now represent to your Grace the immediate necessity I have for your friendship, to extricate me out of the malice and misrepresentation of my enemies.

Your Grace may imagine I shall be under great uneasiness till I know whether my friends approve my conduct: I doubted it a little till I received H. R. H.'s very indulgent letter, as I am always diffident of any reasoning built singly upon my own opinion: but when I have that authority, I may venture to say that I think I have done real service to my country in catching at this first opportunity; and I think it is the more meritorious, as I am firmly convinced that if it had been neglected by my waiting for further orders, that delay would have given the enemy such opportunities of advancing their military operations, and, at the same time, of negotiating in private with the several members of the alliance, that the best thing we could have expected would have been an offer to conclude upon the same conditions: but I much doubt whether they would not rather in that case have risen considerably in their demands.

I beg a line by the first post in answer to this, and that your Grace would rest persuaded of the esteem and attachment with which

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

P. S. Your Grace will, I imagine, judge this a very good opportunity to settle what I proposed in favour of Leveson and Wortley, who are both of them extremely deserving. And I hope you will be of opinion, for the reasons I have given you in a former letter, that it is right I should have leave to

1748. come to England immediately. There is nothing now behind but detail and show, and I am made for neither. Besides, my affairs of all sorts require my presence in England, and my reputation will want to have as many supporters as possible; and though no one has, I believe, been ever better served by his friends than I have in my absence, yet it is a very great satisfaction to be on the spot one's self at such a time as this. I hope these considerations will induce my friends to think of joining some one immediately to me in the commission (I don't care who it is), and order him over immediately, and at the same time give me leave of absence for a few months. This arrangement is very easy; and I own I flatter myself I shall have credit enough to get it carried into execution.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

(Most private.)

London, April 28. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I have deferred till this time the answering your Lordship's letter of the $\frac{1}{12}$ instant, in hopes of the event which your last despatches brought to us, and which has, I can assure you, been most uni-

* From Lord Sandwich's collection. It is to be observed that the Duke of Bedford dates his letters old style, and Lord Sandwich new style. The postscript of this letter, dated April 29., is an answer to that of Lord Sandwich of May 5.

versally, joyfully received by all wellwishers to their country, and in a more especial manner by those who have the happiness of your friendship. Your conduct in the whole affair and your steadiness towards St. Severin, has done honour to yourself as well as to those who have throughout espoused you, and has obliged those who are not your friends to be silent upon this occasion. Even my predecessor* is forced, unwillingly, to give his suffrage of applause to the preliminaries you have signed, by owning we have had good luck in getting so well out of the scrape we were engaged in. I must own I do see one instance of your good luck, and that is, his resignation; for had he continued in his office, and consequently had it been still in his department publicly to have instructed you, I fear it would have been (notwithstanding the good intimations you might have had privately from another quarter) impossible for you to have concluded in the manner you have now done with St. Severin. I do not say that the preliminaries are what the nation ought to have expected at the conclusion of so long and expensive a war, nor what she would have had if all our allies had fulfilled their engagements; but this I will venture to say, and I promise

1748.

* "I believe it (the peace) was alike desirable to both parties: we were ruining you by sea, you were ruining us by land: you were making conquests which you did not want, at the expense of your trade and your navy, whilst we were lavishing the fruits of both on the Continent . . . to say the truth, though the war has certainly been very glorious for you, we have been the greatest gainers in the main." — *Lord Chesterfield's Letters*, vol. i. p. 78.

1748 — you that I will be ready to enter the lists in any place in your justification, that, considering how things were circumstanced, and the great superiority of the French and their allies any where but at sea, this nation and the republic of Holland are much obliged to you for the negotiating for them these very conditions they have obtained. I was unwilling to take up so much of your time to convince you how zealously and warmly I enter into your ideas and reasoning in relation to the present posture of affairs, but I must now come to a much more disagreeable subject, which is the answering that part of your last letter to me which relates to yourself and Mr. Legge. There is nothing can give me more uneasiness than to see a jealousy arising in your mind towards Mr. Legge, who, I will venture to affirm, has always acted, and will ever, I am persuaded, continue to do so, with the greatest cordiality and affection to your Lordship. I have from Christmas last till his leaving of England lived much more with him than I had for a considerable time before, he having been down with me in the country for a fortnight during the holydays, and having in his illness seen him at least once a day during the period of time you mention, I mean from a few days before Lord Chesterfield's resignation to my having the seals. I can testify for his conduct during that time with regard to your interests; and to convince you how falsely he has been accused of intriguing in behalf of another person, he was my principal adviser (after we both found it

was impossible for you to have them) to accept 1748.
 them myself. This behaviour of his can never
 have got him your ill will, as your Lordship your-
 self has already been so kind as to inform me that
 you entirely approved of my promotion, and that
 you were thoroughly satisfied that I never thought
 of the seals myself whilst there was any prospect of
 the obtaining them for you. I can only look upon
 your suspicion of Mr. Legge's design of *taking*
away any little credit that might be gained by you
at the Congress by his being joined in commission
 with you there as arising from the suggestions
 that had been invidiously thrown out to you, of
 his having played you false in the former transac-
 tion; but I flatter myself, as I have already cleared
 that up, this will vanish of course. I believe I can
 venture to affirm that this was not originally his
 own idea, and little did he think his complying
 with it would have been disagreeable to you.

In regard to your own coming home for good
 and all, I believe it is at present impossible, before
 the definitive treaty is finished, nor would I advise
 you to think of it. Surely it will be most for your
 honour to conclude the work you have so well be-
 gun: possibly you may find some interval before
 the whole work is completed to make a trip over
 here for ten days or a fortnight. I wish that may
 be the case, as no one, my dear Lord, will have
 more satisfaction in seeing you than

Yours, &c.

BEDFORD.

1748. P. S. April 29. — Since closing what I have wrote above, I am favoured with your private letter of the $\frac{24 \text{ April}}{5 \text{ May}}$, but as I have above given you my opinion in relation to your late transactions, I shall be very short in what I have now to add. I am truly sensible of the great anxiety of mind you must have felt, especially upon your receiving the orders which came to your hand the day following the signature to the preliminaries: however, I have the satisfaction to be able to inform you that your fears were groundless, and that what you have done is universally approved here. I find likewise by a letter I have received this morning from Turin, by Chevalier Ozorio's courier (who likewise conveyed letters to Chavannes), that that court likewise finds it necessary to come into terms of peace, even though they should not be so advantageous for them as what you have obtained. I am truly happy you had so early a mark of H. R. H.'s approbation of your conduct; that must with the greatest reason have gone far to the setting your mind at ease; as every one who knows him must own that his judgment, as well in council as in the field, is infinitely superior to what will be expected from one of his years. You are truly happy in having so great, so zealous a friend. With regard to your coming home, I can add nothing to what I have wrote above. I find it is the unanimous opinion of all his Majesty's servants I have already spoke to about it that it cannot be thought of at present: go on, my dear Lord, and conclude by yourself with as

much honour to yourself as you begun it, the great and necessary work of peace. With regard to Dick Leveson and Mr. Wortley, I shall with the greatest pleasure do all that is in my power to forward it; but as that is quite in the Duke of Newcastle's department, I am undertaking no more than the part of solicitor in it. My wife and I are truly happy in finding you so anxious about Dick Leveson: we can't help flattering ourselves that he uses his utmost endeavours to merit your good opinion. I am sorry to tell you I fear the King's journey is absolutely and unalterably fixed: I wish it could have been stopt. My girl has been inoculated this morning, so you may judge whether I am not in some anxiety of mind as well as you. I hope in God I shall have no more reason for it than you have had.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Aix-la-Chapelle, May 10. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

A letter I have just received from Lady Sandwich, informing me of your Grace's being displeased at some expressions in my letters concerning Mr. Legge, has given me more concern than

1748. any thing that has happened to me for a long time. It is a fatality attending every body that has no opportunity of explaining their sentiments but in writing to have them subject to misrepresentations; and to be in danger of disobliging their best friends without having time to clear themselves of groundless imputations. I acknowledge to your Grace, that an intimation I had that Legge had been acting a double part, both with regard to you and me, and all concerned in the late transaction, made so far an impression upon me, that I thought it incumbent upon me to inquire whether the fact was true, and if it was, to endeavour to take my measures; since it would certainly have been a most uneasy as well as a most dangerous circumstance to me to be joined in a commission of this sort to one who I knew to be my secret enemy. I wanted no more than to have that affair cleared up, and it is very fortunate for me that I have already shown that was all I desired; which your Grace may have proof of in a late letter to the Duke of Newcastle, which was wrote when I had not the least suspicion that your Grace or any body had paid any serious attention to that affair, and I then very sincerely told the Duke of Newcastle that I was perfectly satisfied with his assurances that my suspicions were ill-grounded, and that I should never think any more of the affair. After this, your Grace may easily judge of my uneasiness, on the perusal of the letter that is this moment come to my hand, by which I must suppose your Grace has

mentioned your dissatisfaction to more than one person, otherwise it never could have come to the ears of her who wrote it to me ; and that of course what I hoped would at no rate ever be known any where but to your Grace, the Duke of Newcastle, and Lord Anson (whose opinion about that and every thing else will always determine mine), may go into hands who may make use of it to my farther disadvantage. However, my principal point, and indeed the only one in which I really interest myself, is to justify myself to your Grace, and to remove any ill impression this business may have made upon you ; as to the rest, I must leave it to take its fate. 1748.

As this matter most nearly interests me, I must beg the favour of your Grace to give me a word of answer as soon as you have received this letter, for though I have many other things at present that lie heavy upon my spirits, yet I can safely assure your Grace nothing touches me more sensibly than the possibility of my appearing in a wrong light to your Grace, to whom I have and ever shall have such strong reasons to profess the most unbounded attachment. As to the particular affair in question, I should never have thought of it any more, if it had not been for my letter of this morning, and I am sure your Grace (if my intelligence is true) must have laid infinitely more stress upon it than it can in any shape deserve. If I had been in England, and had been told what I heard at this distance, I should have inquired into the truth

1748. of it ; and as your Grace would have immediately disabused me, it would have been at once at an end : but at this distance some allowances must be made ; and I will never desire any more of your Grace, than if any thing in my private conduct strikes you with an appearance of my being wrong, that you would give me an opportunity of clearing it up before you form any judgment about it ; for I can assure your Grace, no one can have a thing more at heart, or be more attentive to a purpose, than I am to that of manifesting my gratitude to you upon all occasions, and of showing you how truly I am, in all respects, at your disposition. Upon that principle I leave myself entirely in your hands : do with me what you please, I shall never complain ; I will only hope, in return, that you will be firmly convinced of the inviolable truth and sincerity with which

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

London, May 10. 1748.

My dear Lord,

It is now past half after eight, and I am but just come in from a long debate in the House of Lords, which would have prevented my answering

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

this night your Lordship's letter of the 10th instant, N. S., which was brought me this morning by Cocks the messenger, did not your desire, and the contents of it, require an immediate answer. You will, doubtless, before this comes to your hands, have received my last letter to your Lordship of the 28th of April, O. S., and shall therefore make no repetition of what I have wrote there, and I flatter myself, will see by it my real sentiments with regard to yourself; and which I trust will be entirely to your satisfaction. 1748.

I must now, in as few words as possible, justify myself of what, before it is explained, must appear to you very faulty in me; and which, indeed, would have been so, had I done what you have as yet reason to suspect I did. I can assure you, my dear Lord, I was so far from doing it, that I never mentioned it to any person but the Duke of Newcastle and Lord Anson, to both of whom you informed me you had wrote on the same subject. Many days after your letters to us three came over, Lord Anson, when I was absent, mentioned it to my wife, imagining I had told her of it; but which, on my honour, I had not done, nor to any other person except the two above named, whom you had likewise trusted with it. After this, Lord Anson mentioned it, as he informed me this morning, to Lady Sandwich; which, I can venture to say, was the only information she had from any body; as I am sure the Duchess of Bedford never spoke of it any where, as we were both very desirous, that as

1748. — we were sure your suspicion was without any foundation, and that you would soon think so yourself, that it might never come abroad into the world. I once more wish you joy of what you have done, and hope in a short time to see you here, though it should be but for a few days. I this morning said all I could for it in the closet; though, to say the truth, the King seems as yet a little averse to it.

Believe me, &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berlin, May $\frac{1}{12}$ 1748.

My dear Lord,

I have received with great pleasure the honour of your Grace's letter from Woburn Abbey of April 8th, and though I still adhere to my original exhortation to your Grace, not to give yourself the trouble of answering my epistles, I cannot help owning, that when you do, I am heartily glad of it. Don't mix me with the business of the state, I beg: I would not wish to come into your head in such bad company as that of state affairs; but if in your intervals of leisure you should find yourself inclined to scribble, it will flatter me greatly to think I am in your Grace's thought when those thoughts are most at your own disposal.

I congratulate you and every true Briton most

sincerely upon the signing of the preliminaries. By 1748.
 a letter I had this morning from Lord Sandwich I
 have read the substance of them, and as far as I am
 able to judge, they seem to me to lead to as decent
 a peace as could be expected, not at all worse than
 we might have had last year ; and considering how
 much worse our pretensions have grown since that
 time, I think his Lordship has shown great dexterity
 in bringing us off so well. I don't at all wonder
 he was deceived by those who certainly deceived
 themselves as well as him ; but the lesson will be a
 salutary one for the public hereafter, and in that
 light we have not paid too dear for it. The next
 point in question seems to be to replace the loss of
 the barrier as soon as possible : that can only be
 done by substantial alliances, and none seems to me
 more so than with this court.

I shall reserve all characters and personal histories till I have the pleasure of meeting your Grace at Hanover, which I have now taken into my head will certainly come to pass ; but in the mean while I dare say your Grace will employ that just weight and influence you have in a certain place to overcome all family prejudices if possible, at least to such a degree that they may not obstruct national interest and security. France will soon be busy here, and if we let him escape now, he is gone for ever.* He certainly is well disposed, sees his

* The "him" in this sentence the assertion of Coxe that Mr. evidently refers to the King of Legge was uncivilly treated by Prussia. The next contradicts Frederick.

1748. true interest, and is a person to pursue it ; and from the great marks of favour and condescension he shows to your humble servant has certainly a mind to unite cordially. Indeed if he don't, I think he will be undone at last ; for though we are well set for a battle or two at this place, the nerves are greatly wanting for a long war, and nobody I believe in the whole country knows this better than the master himself.

I am very glad to hear the Woburn partridges behave in so promising a manner, and that the human pair you mention follow their example. As I take for granted by this time the lawyers must have done building the nest (though they are but slow architects), I hope they are as far advanced in their way as the rest of their fellow-creatures, and heartily wish them a large covey of chickens.

I am, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

MR. ALDWORTH * TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

King Street, May 20. 1748. 12 o'clock at night.

My Lord,

I have this instant received several despatches for your Grace from Messrs. Sinclair,

* Richard Neville Aldworth, of Elizabeth Countess of Portsmouth. Under Secretary of State, took the name of Neville on the death

Byng, and Villettes, which I shall send to-morrow by a messenger to Woburn, as soon as they have made copies of them to send to his Majesty. In the mean time I think it my duty to acquaint your Grace that the King of Sardinia has told M. Villettes that he never could have imagined he should have been left entirely to the mercy of France, Spain, and Genoa, but that this must be the case, unless the King could and would immediately think of some better system of opposing the power of France, than that they have hitherto gone on; and that he attributed the necessity of our accepting these terms to M. St. Severin's having been so early informed by the Genoese minister (as was suspected) of the orders sent to my Lord Sandwich. His Majesty however added, that this should not alter his continuing to place his whole confidence in the King, as far as prudence and a necessary regard to his own preservation would *now* admit of. M. de Gorzegne assured M. Villettes soon afterwards, that positive orders had been sent to Count Chavannes to assure Lord Sandwich of his master's accession at a proper time, and even to consent that Lord Sandwich should, if necessary, be answerable for it to M. de St. Severin.

The enclosed memorial was given me by Mr. Barlow, who waited upon your Grace to beg your assistance in favour of Captain Colbey, and proposed at the same time returning his thanks for the two armed vessels which were sent by your Grace's order on the coast of Wales, and were of

1748. — the greatest service in protecting the Milford coal trade. He mentioned having had the honour of being known to your Grace in Italy.

The messenger, my Lord, who brought the despatches, says the King sailed yesterday about three in the afternoon, and that he believes his Majesty must have gained his passage, but as the wind changed again about five, most people think he must be still at Harwich. I shall be able to-morrow to let your Grace know the truth about it.

I beg leave to present my most humble respects to my Lady Duchess, and am, with the greatest truth and gratitude, &c. &c.

R. N. ALDWORTH.

I suppose Mr. Ramsden will have acquainted your Grace with the court of Vienna having acceded to the preliminaries. I forgot to mention that the Duke of Newcastle has stopped the mail.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Aix, June 2. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I return your Grace a million of thanks for your obliging letter of the 10th of May, which has set my mind entirely at ease upon a point which to

me will always be a point of the utmost importance — the maintaining my place in your Grace's favour. 1748.

It is necessary that I should make some apology for having troubled you to interfere for me about my coming immediately to England, and afterwards not making use of the leave you had obtained for me. I flatter myself your Grace will think my reasons for taking that resolution were such as ought to have prevailed on me to do as I have done. In the first place, H. R. H. advised me against it, with the very indulgent intimation that he was convinced affairs would suffer by my absence; besides the turn things have taken in England, and by what I can find every where else, with regard to these preliminaries, has removed one of my principal reasons for wishing to be immediately on the spot. I own fairly to you that I feared it would be necessary for my own safety that I should be present to speak for myself. I thought I could have justified my conduct by word of mouth, and have convinced you to demonstration that the moment I took advantage of was not to be lost, though we had been obliged to accept harder conditions than those we have since obtained. I doubted a little of your resolution to go through with the work you thought necessary when the orders were sent me of the 4th and 8th of April, and that suspicion (which I since have the satisfaction to find was ill grounded) as it was natural, gave me a great deal of uneasiness, and in the situation I then

1748. was, I think your Grace will approve of my intention to come over directly to confront the danger, and to answer for myself: there is still a third reason that determines me to stay where I am at present, and that is, that I hope I shall be allowed to come over before the meeting of the parliament, and without the restriction and limitation I now had in the leave that was granted me; that matter will be very easy and natural if you appoint me a colleague, as I hope to God you will, for really the detail is too much for any single person, much less for such an idle fellow as I am. I am sure, when your Grace considers my situation, your friendship to me will incline you to agree with me in opinion on this point. When these matters come to be discussed in parliament, it will be of immense advantage to me to be able to speak for myself; my credit and reputation require I should. I only put it upon that argument, because your Grace's constant goodness to me makes me flatter myself that is an argument the most likely to make impression upon you; and as, besides, I have not vanity enough to imagine that my presence could be of any essential use to my friends in the administration, who know much better than me what to say in favour of a measure they have so fully approved.

I imagine you will be very agreeably surprised with the early accession of the courts of Vienna and Turin. I hope you will approve my conduct in that difficult affair: if you think that any attention is to be paid to my project with M. Sotto

Mayor*, the whole work may be considered to be as good as concluded; without, I fear, the article of the Assiento will delay our business extremely; and at least I much doubt, even if Spain is forced to submit, whether they will ever allow us the full execution of our right, without starting fresh difficulties and disputes that may draw the nation again into great inconveniences. 1748.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.†

◀(Private.)

London, June 5. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am truly glad to find that your Lordship is so thoroughly satisfied with the account I gave you in my letter to you of the 10th of last month, in relation to all that had passed between the Duke of Newcastle, Lord Anson, and myself, with regard to Mr. Legge. You may very well believe that I would use all the caution imaginable to prevent a thing being made public which I know must very soon blow over, and whilst it lasted gave me as much real concern as any thing of that nature could

* Spanish minister at the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle.

† From Lord Sandwich's collection.

1748. do. I was very glad to be any ways accessary in obtaining you leave to come to England for a short time, though I think you have acted quite right in not making use of it, especially as it was H. R. H.'s opinion that affairs might suffer in your absence: and, indeed, I think H. R. H. has judged quite right, as it seems to me absolutely necessary to lose no time in coming to a definitive treaty, without which the necessary reduction in our expenses cannot be made, and we shall be obliged to burden the people with the same taxes, though a cessation of hostilities has taken place; which thing would undoubtedly occasion infinite discontent. I believe you will find, when you come to talk with the Duke of Newcastle, that there will be no difficulty made in appointing you a colleague; but whether it will be Mr. Legge or Sir Thomas Robinson I cannot well tell; I believe it may be settled as you shall best like. I have likewise, I believe, brought to bear the appointment, as secretaries to the embassy, for Mr. Wortley and Dick Leveson, the Duke of Newcastle having promised to mention it to the King, and I find Mr. Pelham is not at all averse to it. You desire my opinion of your conduct in getting the courts of Vienna and Turin to accede as early as they have done, and sooner than most people expected they would. I do assure you I am perfectly satisfied with it, and have so good an opinion of your dexterity, that I flatter myself with soon hearing from you that M. de Sotto Mayor has acceded. I am sure we have offered very fair by

assuring them that, in case they will accede *purement et simplement* to the preliminaries, we will be immediately ready to treat directly with them, without the intervention of any other person, in order to settle all commercial difficulties and disputes. 1748.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Powis House, June 13. 1748.

My Lord,

I obey your Grace's commands in sending the packet which accompanies this letter to Bedford House. I have read over all the letters, and return your Grace my thanks for the communication. As you were pleased to desire Mr. Pelham and me to consider the minute of your intended answer to the Duke of Newcastle, your Grace will permit me to have the honour to say, that I entirely approve of it. I observe by your billet that your Grace makes a very proper distinction between such papers as are proper to be read at the meeting of the Lords Justices and such as are not: from thence I took the hint of perusing them with that view, and beg leave to submit it to your consideration, whether those letters and papers which I have separated, by

1748. tying them together with red tape, should for the present at least be read there or not ; for they all make some mention of those points which the King has directed should be particularly considered by such of his servants as are consulted on the most secret affairs, or else they refer to other letters which relate to those points. Your Grace will easily recollect, that when letters are read, which contain a reference to other letters, some lord or other is apt to inquire for the letters referred to ; but this I submit to your better judgment. I have tied up Walton's letters from Florence along with these papers, not for the sake of the contents, which amount to nothing, but because the person is a secret agent, who goes by a feigned name.

I am, &c. &c.

HARDWICKE.

DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

Whitehall, June 14. 1748.

Sir,

The Duke of Newcastle being set out to attend his Majesty at Hanover, and consequently during his absence the affairs of his department devolving upon me, by which it is possible I may sometimes have the honour of receiving your R. H.'s commands, I cannot omit this opportunity of offering, in the most respectful manner, my most

humble services to your R. H., assuring you that I shall always, with the greatest attention and duty, execute any commands your R. H. shall think proper to honour me with. 1748.

I have communicated to Mr. Pelham your R. H.'s despatch to the Duke of Newcastle, from the head quarters at Nestleroy, dated $\frac{7}{18}$, in relation to the necessities the Austrian troops will be under, in case the subsidies due to them are not paid before the expiration of this month; but as Mr. Pelham informs me he shall have the honour to write to your R. H. by this post, and as I fear it is out of his power to do what your R. H. seems to think is necessary for the good of the common cause, I shall forbear troubling you on a subject which I fear must be disagreeable to you.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. ALDWORTH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Whitehall, June 17. 1748.

My Lord,

Collins the messenger arrived about six o'clock this evening, with part of the despatches I have the honour of sending your Grace by Blackmore, and soon after we received the other part by the mail.

1748. I am so very shallow a politician, that I own to your Grace I can't help being somewhat alarmed at the letters from Lord Sandwich and M. Villettes, and fear M. St. Severin has a mind to put some more of his Italian tricks in practice.

However, if the orders sent by your Grace to Admiral Byng should still be insisted upon as a proof of our being determined to carry on a war as long as we could have the least pretext for so doing, I must beg leave to congratulate your Grace on having done all in your power to avoid that step, as well as on having prudently preserved proofs of your having done so, if ever it should be found necessary to produce them.

I have only to beg your Grace's pardon for all this impertinence, and to repeat the most sincere assurances of that high respect and attachment with which I am, &c. &c.

R. N. ALDWORTH.

I beg leave to present my most humble respects to my Lady Duchess.

THE EARL OF HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Powis House, June 20. 1748.

My Lord,

I am extremely obliged for the honour of your Grace's letter, and the communication of the

packets herewith returned. I entirely agree with your Grace, that it would be very unfortunate if the orders sent to Vice-Admiral Byng, or any proceedings of his in the Mediterranean, should give any real occasion of jealousy or complaint to France, or create any obstacles to the good work of peace. But I am inclined to think very little of that kind has happened yet ; and, as we may recriminate by some instances of the same nature on our part, I imagine that if that court is sincerely disposed to peace (as I persuade myself they are), they will be willing, upon the whole, to set the one against the other. But as the court of Vienna acceded to the preliminaries long ago, and Spain has now also acceded, on which event I heartily congratulate your Grace, my humble opinion is, that orders should be sent to Mr. Byng to stop all hostilities, as soon as the King's pleasure can be known from Hanover upon this subject. But don't M. St. Severin carry his point too far, when he insists that every power who accedes, though never so late, is entitled to the benefit of the cessation of hostilities from the times limited between the three original contracting powers, and to have restitution of their respective ships and goods accordingly ? If this be not the true construction of the preliminaries, and acts of accession, it will be out of the power of the King our master to make such restitutions.

I presume your Grace will cause the Duke of Cumberland's letter to be transmitted to Mr. Pelham, because it in part relates to money matters.

1748. I observe your Grace is very justly doubtful whether my Lord Sandwich's long despatch of ¹²/₂₃ June should be laid before the Board of Regency. As you are pleased to do me the honour to ask my opinion, I own it seems to me not proper to do so, at least, for the present. It takes in the question about stopping the Russians, which remains hitherto undecided, and about which there has been some difference of opinion; and that point is now taken up by France for the first time. This letter also contains some matters, which, if all our brethren should not be quite secret, and they should happen to transpire, may be spread abroad and interpreted in the town as the beginning of differences between us and France, and as obstructions in the way of the peace which may be made use of to affect the stocks: besides this, it contains matter very various and extensive, and which may be reduced to more precision by the conference between H. R. H., the Duke of Newcastle, and my Lord Sandwich; and therefore I should humbly apprehend it is most advisable to suspend the producing it at the Regency, at least, till your Grace hears the effect of that conference.

I have only a short private letter from the Duke of Newcastle, writ in vast haste, just as he was setting out from the Hague for the army: there is not in it one word of business, except that he seems satisfied with what has been said to him there, and is in love with the Greffier Fagel. His Grace does not so much as mention the accession of Spain, so

I have that only from a relation of mine in his office, without knowing one word of the terms or particular circumstances, but I presume it is simple. 1748.

When a new commission of sewers is passed for Spalding in Lincolnshire, the persons your Grace has named shall certainly be inserted. I shall have the honour to wait on your Grace on Thursday morning at the Regency, and if you have any commands for me in the mean time shall be proud to obey them, being always with the most perfect truth, &c. &c.

HARDWICKE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

(Most secret.)

London, June 23. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As I had not time when I wrote you by Tuesday's mail to mention some particulars with relation to the orders sent to Vice-Admiral Byng, and which indeed were not so proper to be mentioned in a public letter, I will now in this most secret give your Lordship an account of this transaction. At a meeting at Newcastle House, where were present my Lord Chancellor, the Duke of

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

1748. Newcastle, Mr. Pelham, and myself, I did propose and offer to their consideration the heads for a draught, which I intended to lay before his Majesty the next morning for his approbation, the substance of which was, after informing the Vice-Admiral of the signature of the preliminaries, a copy of which I likewise enclosed to him, to observe to him, that though by the stipulations in the preliminaries it was universally understood here that naval operations in the Mediterranean were not suspended till after the term of three months, yet he should take care to confine himself for the last six weeks of the aforesaid term of three months to operations purely naval, and not assist in the least degree either the Austrians or Piedmontese in any offensive operations by land against the Genoese, but should still be at liberty to act defensively, in case the enemy should attempt any thing against Savona, or any other place in the possession of our allies. This draught of a despatch to Vice-Admiral Byng was entirely approved of, as I had drawn it up, by the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham, but was as strongly opposed by the Duke of Newcastle, who, out of tenderness for the Empress Queen's interests, declared very warmly against it : however, when it came to be submitted to his Majesty, the Duke of Newcastle's arguments prevailed, and I was ordered to despatch to Vice-Admiral Byng instructions, which, though they were not faulty in themselves, yet in my opinion were not explanatory enough to Mr. Byng, in directing him to forbear, after the first six

weeks were expired, all operations that related in any shape to hostilities at land, and to confine himself solely to those that were purely naval. I should not have given you this long detail but for my desire of disculpating myself, as I am confident, had the orders I proposed been sent, none of the present complaints would have existed. 1748.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. WALPOLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Woolterton, near Hylsham, June 25. 1748.

My Lord,

I have found among my papers a tract written on occasion of our differences with Spain in 173⁷₈, under the following heads: —

1. A state of the nature of our treaty with Spain.
2. The breach and violations of them by the subjects of that crown without redress or satisfaction, and what may have been the reasons or motives for such violations.
3. What means are proper to be used for obtaining satisfaction for what is past, and prevention of the like grievances for the future.

1748. I can't pretend to say whether this tract will afford any material lights in the present negotiation for renewing and establishing a lasting friendship with that crown; however, it may not perhaps be disagreeable to your Grace, if you have curiosity and leisure enough to see a short deduction of the treaty and transactions between the two nations since the discovery of the West Indies: but I would not presume to intrude and interrupt the weighty business in your Grace's department at this juncture, with the notions of an old fashioned and worn out politician, without first asking your leave, being with the greatest deference, as well as respect, &c. &c.

H. WALPOLE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

London, June 30. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As I hope by the time your Grace receives this letter you will have been long enough arrived at Hanover to have entirely recovered the fatigues of a journey through Westphalia, I shall venture to take up a little of your time in answering some things in your two last letters, more particularly than I could in a public despatch. I do most sincerely rejoice in the account your Grace is so good

as to give me in relation to H. R. H.'s health. I 1748.
can assure you there is no one in this kingdom can
feel a more entire satisfaction on H. R. H.'s re-
covery than myself, as I am thoroughly convinced
that over and above his many amiable qualities in
private life, which must always endear him to those
who have the honour to be personally acquainted
with him, his public virtues may one time or other
be of the utmost consequence to this nation.

I have very carefully considered the minutes of
the conversation between your Grace and Marshal
Bathiani, and as to the first point, entirely agree
with you, that the court of Vienna has a right to
demand the 100,000*l.* due for the four regiments
of Austrian cavalry, as soon as the ratifications of
the convention shall be exchanged, which may be
done forthwith, if his Majesty approves of it. With
regard to their second demand, I think they have
no pretence to it, as it would be absurd to suppose,
upon the authority of a *tabelle* probably coined
by the Marshal to serve the present purpose, that
their army was complete 58,000 at the opening of
the campaign, as it ought to have been, when we
know from the authority of H. R. H. that it did
not really amount to much more than half that
number. Your Grace must likewise remember that
the allowing of this *tabelle* to be just would be
entirely contradicting what we have always alleged
for our justification in signing the preliminaries
without our allies; as had the Austrian contingent
been fairly what they would fain now make us be-

1748. lieve it to have been, I mean 58,000 men, the superiority of the French over us in the field would not have been so great (considering the approach of the Russian auxiliaries) as to have made us catch at any terms at the first offer, without taking our allies with us; neither do I think the method proposed by the Marshal for signing a new act, reciting the causes that prevented the giving the proper certificates, and agreeing, in order to put an end to all disputes, to give this 100,000*l.*, is a thing any of his Majesty's servants can possibly advise him to come into, as it will appear barefacedly to all the world as a bribe given to the court of Vienna, to persuade them to come into those measures which, chiefly by their fault in not keeping up to their promised contingent, we, who have already borne the whole burden of the war, have been obliged to accept of. I must own I should be very unwilling to set my hand to such an act, and I fear it would be a difficult matter to carry it through parliament next winter. I fear your Grace will find the like demands for their army in Italy, which it appears to me has been equally incomplete with that of the Low Countries; so that were these several demands to be complied with, we shall be reproached with not only saddling this nation with the whole expense of the war, whilst there was a possibility existing of carrying it on, but when that ceased, even through the inability of our allies to fulfil their engagements, of paying them a sum of money to engage them to come into measures, which by their

non-compliance with the engagements they lay under to us, they had reduced us to accept of. Your Grace did desire me to write freely my sentiments to you, so if I have the misfortune to differ from you, I hope you will excuse it. 1748.

The remaining part of the conversation between your Grace and Marshal Bathiani will more properly come to be considered when I come to the points that were talked of first between you and the Prince of Orange at the Hague, and afterwards reconsidered with H. R. H. at the army. The principal points in these two papers seem to me to be these: 1st, the cessions and restitutions to be mutually made: 2dly, the withdrawing our forces and the stopping the march of the Russians: 3dly, the time of cessation of hostilities in the Mediterranean, and the demand made by M. St. Severin that Spain and Genoa should have the benefit of the cessation from the first signing of the preliminaries: 4thly, the recalling the several squadrons from the distant parts of the world, and, 5thly, about the proposal for any foreign troops to be retained in the pay of England. As to the first, I think it is absolutely necessary that all cessions should be immediately on the conclusion of the definitive treaty mutually made; and I foresee the worst consequences should the French retain any part of their conquests in the Low Countries, as a security for the delivering to them any thing we shall have taken from them in the East Indies, especially as in all appearance Rear-Admiral Boscawen will retain nothing in his

1748. hands, and will have contented himself with destroying their fortifications and laying waste their settlements. The consequence will then be, that as we shall have nothing left in our hands to give up to the French for that part of the Low Countries they shall have retained, they will still keep it till we consent to pay them any exorbitant sum they may demand for the damages they shall have suffered in the East Indies. The second point, of withdrawing our forces and stopping the march of the Russians, I think in our present circumstances (supposing the mutual restitutions made) absolutely necessary, and I think liable to no objection, provided the French proceed in the reform of some of their troops, and the sending into the interior of their own country some others *pari passu* with us. With regard to the third, I have in my letter to your Grace of the 28th instant given my opinion fully, in order to its being submitted to his Majesty's determination. The recalling our squadrons from the distant parts of the world, I mean both the East and West Indies and the Mediterranean, can I think be liable to no objection, with this latitude, that his Majesty will undoubtedly in all those parts keep, though in the times of the most profound peace, a sufficient squadron to protect the trade of his subjects from pirates, &c., though not considerable enough to give any alarm to the French or Spaniards. As to the fifth point, which was suggested by the Prince of Orange, to continue some small subsidies for securing the future use of foreign troops, I must own myself entirely against it, as it

would not only break in upon that system of economy 1746.
 which it seems now necessary for us to pursue, but
 would also make the world believe that the peace
 was intended to be of but of a short duration, which
 notion, should it once take place, most of the good
 effects expected from the peace for the advantage
 of this country would be frustrated, such as the
 revival of commerce, the raising the public credit,
 and many other things, all of which depend on the
 long continuance of the public tranquillity. There
 is, I think, nothing farther to trouble your Grace
 with at present, except what relates to the barrier
 treaty, which the court of Vienna pretend to annul,
 but in my opinion it is without the least shadow of
 reason. I hope your Grace will find, upon making
 the proper remonstrances to that court on this sub-
 ject in a strong manner, that they will desist from
 these pretensions, which were they to be allowed,
 would, I fear, disorder the whole system of the
 present alliance.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO BARON HASLANG.*

Whitehall, June 30. 1748.

Sir,

I have, in consequence of what passed be-
 tween us yesterday relating to the disputes between

* Bavarian minister.

1748. some of your servants and some certain parish officers, seen my Lord Chief Justice Lee; and I find, that when first this affair was brought into the King's Bench it appeared there in so atrocious a light against your servants, that the informations lodged by them against the parish officers were quashed by the unanimous consent of the whole court.

My Lord Chief Justice has therefore done no more in granting his warrant than what the law directed him to do; which allows no privileges to foreign ministers in cases of assault, breach of the peace, felony, treason, and the like, but only in civil suits.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. WALPOLE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Woolterton, July 2. 1748.

My Lord,

In obedience to your Grace's commands I send you enclosed the tract I mentioned in my last: I could have made it shorter, but upon reflection I thought your Grace would forgive the length of it, if I took the liberty to let it go as it was drawn up at the time when the clamours of the nation were so loud for a war with Spain, on account of the depredations in the West Indies. Your Grace must

be the best judge whether it can be of any use at this juncture, according to the method that is to be taken to re-establish peace and commerce upon the foundation of a lasting friendship with Spain. 1748.

It is natural to believe that, in pursuance of the preliminaries, all convenient despatch will be used to conclude with that crown upon the foot of former treaties in general; but whether it may not be, at the same time, understood by a written or verbal declaration, that any particular contested rights, with regard to commerce or possessions, that may have given a handle to differences between the two nations since the unfortunate treaty of Utrecht, should be discussed after the general peace of Europe is made, by plenipotentiaries on both sides, either at London or Madrid, and proper explanations made and settled to remove and prevent, as far as is possible, all occasions of future dissensions, is what I can't in my station pretend to know, or presume to inquire after. All that I shall say at present is, that nothing can be more beneficial to the trade of England than to establish and cultivate a strict friendship with Spain; because the preservation of the peace, and particularly of our commerce, will depend upon a real friendship more than upon the words or stipulations of the treaties: and now there is, I hope, a prince upon that throne that is of a pacific temper, and a true Spaniard, that must therefore be desirous to free his subjects from the great oppressions and losses that they have suffered by the war, that cannot, if he consults

1748. the interest of Spain, have any particular attachment to France, and can have no views to new acquisitions, as the late proud Catholic king and his ambitious queen had; and as I have reason to believe, from a particular information I had about two years since, the present queen consort, who has great influence and credit with her husband; is very well disposed to the English nation, there may be an inclination in that court to come into such temperaments, and a good understanding with his Majesty, as may lay a basis for a lasting friendship between the two nations. Other things occur to me, but I have already transgressed the bounds of my sphere, and almost I am afraid of decency; but your Grace's goodness will, I flatter myself, pardon the importunate zeal I show for a durable peace with Spain.

I am, &c. &c.

H. WALPOLE.

MESSRS. RYDER * AND MURRAY† TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

July 6. 1748.

May it please your Grace,

In obedience to your Grace's commands, signified to us by Mr. Potter in his letter of the 30th of June last, transmitting extracts of letters

* Attorney-General.

† Solicitor-General.

from the Duke of Newcastle and the Earl of Sandwich, concerning a question which hath arisen at Aix, between the plenipotentiary of his Majesty and those of France, Spain and the republic of Genoa, relating to the sense of the 16th article of the preliminaries signed there, which refers to the third article of the treaty for a suspension of arms, signed at Paris the $\frac{8}{19}$ August, 1712; and also transmitting a copy of the said 16th article of the preliminaries signed at Aix, and of the third article of the treaty for a suspension of arms, signed at Paris $\frac{8}{19}$ August, 1712, with a literal translation of the same, and an extract of the proclamation issued by the late Queen Anne the 18th August, 1712; as also a copy of his Majesty's proclamation for the cessation of hostilities, pursuant to the said preliminaries signed at Aix, together with an extract of his most Christian Majesty's order on the same occasion, and desiring us to consider this matter, and report our opinion thereupon.

We have considered the said papers (which are herewith returned to your Grace), and though there may be some ambiguity in the manner of penning the 16th article, yet the true sense of it seems to be, that the cessation of hostilities at sea, as to the parties who did not at first sign the preliminaries, should take place from the like times after their accession, as it was to take place between the parties then signing after their respective signature, and not sooner.

This appears to us the most natural construction

1748.

1748. of the words, "after the signature," in the third article of the treaty of 1712, transferred into the 16th article of the preliminaries by virtue of the reference therein contained, those words amounting to the same thing as after their respective signing. It is likewise the only sense that can be put upon those words, consistent with the plain general view of the party's contracting, that there should be an actual and effectual cessation of arms from the times agreed upon, and a reasonable time allowed for notice to their respective subjects to abstain from hostilities.

All which is humbly submitted to your Grace's consideration.

D. RYDER.

W. MURRAY.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Bompte, between Osnaburgh and Hanover,

June 26
July 7. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I received near this place the honour of your Grace's letter of the 17th, O. S., which had been at Hanover; and Mr. Stone was so good as to send it to me to meet me upon the road. I propose to be at Hanover to-morrow about noon. The King has desired me to lie this night at his Grand Bailiff's, which will carry me about 15 English

miles further than I intended. So as I shall be late 1748.
in to-night, I would not omit the opportunity of
Sammer's returning to England to acquaint your
Grace with my further progress. I have met with
great civilities upon the road, and I dare say shall
find the King in very good spirits and humour.

As soon as I arrive at Hanover, I propose to
despatch a messenger to your Grace with the
King's final determination upon all the depending
points. I hope your Grace approves our last ex-
pedient, in preventing the French from keeping
possession of Flanders, that is, great part of it:
when I came to the army, that was greatly to be
feared: I pressed the finding out some expedient,
and I hope it is done. I left every thing in
Holland very well, as far as depends upon the
ministry. As for the Prince and Princess, I hope
they will see their own interest. I think my friend
Sandwich a little too much in a hurry; and when
once a mistake has been made, a little unwilling to
own it, and rather creating difficulties to himself,
by not doing it, than otherwise: however, I hope
all will end well. But to keep the Austrians quiet,
we must, some way or other, give them these two
sums of money. One seems to be agreed to; the
other must be struck out by our fertile genius.

Your friend Legge goes fast; and the only objec-
tion I have, he goes fast *not quite in the direct road*;
but this to ourselves: but when I say to ourselves,
I don't mean the Chancellor and my brother, to
whom I beg my compliments. I don't write to

1748. the Chancellor, because I can't say any thing more than I will say to your Grace; I don't write to my brother, because I look upon him as a *travelling English country gentleman*, who has no right to expect a letter from abroad.

Ever yours,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. RYDER TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

July 7. 1748.

My Lord,

I have inquired concerning the affair of Baron Haslang's servants, and cannot find any letter referring it to me, but yet the Baron's complaint was put into Mr. Sharp's hands at the Duke of Newcastle's office; and upon perusing the indictment found against one of his servants, it appeared that the breach of the peace charged upon him was before the Act of Grace, and pardoned by it. In consequence of this, all proceedings upon it have been stopped, and nothing further has been done relating to the complaint. As to the arrest on the Lord Chief Justice's warrant, which your Grace mentioned to me this morning, it was not included in the complaint delivered to Mr. Sharp.

I am, &c.

D. RYDER.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.1748.

Hanover, ^{June 29}
July 10¹⁷⁴⁸.

My dear Lord,

I have troubled your Grace with so much public business by this messenger, that I hope you will excuse me, if I only give you a short account of what passed with the King about our foreign ministers. His Majesty most readily agreed to Sir T. Robinson, Keene, and all that we proposed. The King sees the utility of sending immediately some proper person to Paris, but the question is who that person should be. I mentioned Yorke, the King extremely approved it, but I would not absolutely fix it; but I know the Duke's sentiments and your Grace's and those of my friends in England. You may send Keene in what capacity, and with what instructions, you think proper. The King is inclined to please the Greffier with Holdernessee at the Hague, but that is not quite fixed. I must refer you to my letters to my Lord Sandwich and the Duke for all I can say upon business. I beg my compliments to the Duchess of Bedford,

And am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

1748.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berlin, July 14. 1748.

My dear Lord,

Your letter of 5th of last month has given me infinite pleasure both in the political and foreign, as well as in the more important and domestic part of it. I don't doubt but your Grace has contributed greatly towards those prudent counsels with regard to Spain, the good effects of which have been felt, since I received your letter, by an unreserved accession to the preliminaries, upon which I congratulate you most sincerely. Though the prospect of a general peace is completed, and all difficulties towards a definitive treaty are removed by this accession, yet I don't know whether I value it more for these immediate good consequences, than I do as a symptom of our having talked properly and confidentially to Spain, and of her having listened to our arguments. Your Grace and your humble servant, I know, hold a set of tenets of our own with regard to Spain, and which, perhaps, like other professors of new systems, we may push at least as far as they ought to go. But I am sure the foundation we build upon is a sound one; and there cannot be worse policy than to drive a rich and powerful nation, naturally our friends, into the arms of our most avowed enemies, and make them furnish the sinews of war to those they hate, against those whom, by interest and inclination, they wish always to be united with. I hope, now

peace is come, we shall follow the example of our 1748.
neighbours, and use at least as much intrigue to
gain friends for the preservation of Europe as they
have done to destroy the liberties of mankind, and
give a loose to their own impertinent ambition.
Nations may be gained in detail if we observe
well times and seasons, and make the most of
them ; and it will be the easier to gain them from
France, because most of those who have acted with
her have acted upon particular and temporary
reasons, in direct contradiction to the true interest
and established maxims of their country. I hope
one of our first essays will be made here, where I
verily think great good may be done, if we strike
while the iron is hot, and don't give others room,
who are less dilatory than ourselves, to take the
opportunity out of our hands. So much for politics.
I rejoice extremely in the good account you send
me of my play-fellow, and congratulate your Grace
and my Lady Duchess upon the happy effects of
your prudent courage. I can't help thinking my-
self greatly interested in the preservation of Lady
Caroline's charms, as I think they will not fail
hereafter to torment and mortify many of those
saucy rascals, who will have the insolence to be
very young men at the time when I shall have the
misfortune to be a very old one. It is an interest
of a more generous nature which I take in Lord
Tavistock's education, though perhaps a little selfish,
too, at bottom. I take it one may relish applause
long after beauty has lost all its effect ; and when

1748. hereafter Lord Tavistock makes a good figure in the world, as I don't doubt but he will, your Grace will not grudge me the little comfortable vanity of supposing I have been in a small degree accessory to it. Though the soil and the cultivation is the work of others, yet it must be confessed I called aloud for the gardener, and may therefore pretend to a kind of merit, somewhat akin to that of a certain sexton recorded in metre:—

The sexton thus, of preaching well
Claim'd half the praise—who rang the bell.

It is well for your Grace that paper has bounds, if nonsense has none, and that I can defer no longer to acknowledge myself,

Yours, &c.

H. LEGGE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Hanover, July $\frac{6}{17}$ 1748.

My dear Lord,

The arrival this morning of a messenger from my Lord Sandwich, with his most satisfactory letters of the $\frac{3}{14}$, has taken up my time so much that I shall not be able to do more than make the necessary addition to my public despatches in consequence of those letters. I cannot, however, avoid congratulating your Grace upon the good prospect

of things at Aix, and the court of France's having
consented, I think, to all that was proposed in my
late letter to my Lord Sandwich, for the conclu-
sion of the definitive treaty, I think it should not
be delayed by the obstinacy of any one unreasonable
power, as much as I own myself a friend and
partisan of that unreasonable but *necessary* power.
I hope you don't disapprove my conduct since I
have been here: hitherto it seems to have succeeded.
The affair of Prussia is the most difficult point;
that in my poor opinion cuts two ways. To be
sure it is to be wished to gain the King of Prussia;
but we must not gain him and lose all our other
allies, and that is what I am afraid the King of
Prussia means to drive us to. I have got leave for
Legge to come here for a few days. The king
always talks good-naturedly upon this subject, but
thinks he is a little too credulous. He told me
yesterday, *Well, I am not against your trying it, but
I shall laugh at Legge and you.* And yet I don't
apprehend that the King thinks me so forward as
he thinks Legge.* I must do justice to our brother

* "Believe me Legge has had more views, more irons in the fire, than you imagine. He is not that *simple, plain, disinterested man* we all thought him. However we have parted good friends. He is extremely disapproved by the King, who calls him *fool* every day, and abuses us all for sending a man purely because he can make a speech in the House of Commons."—*Duke of Newcastle to Mr. Pelham.*

In answer to this, Mr. Pelham writes, "Long before I received this account, I wrote to Legge, and advised him to get home as soon as he could. I saw no good was likely to come to his country, and I have long seen no good would come to himself, from this unfortunate embassy. Do not fancy by this that I think Legge that *simple, plain, disinterested man* you suppose we all did. I can assure you I do not; nor do I

1748. ministers here ; hitherto they seem very reasonable, and I believe will not *insist* upon any thing that can any ways give any rubs, or obstruct our general affairs. I continue to talk my sense with great freedom to them, and they seem not displeased with my doing so. My service to all friends, my dear Duke,

Yours, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

Sandwich does admirably well.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Greenwich Park, July $\frac{7}{18}$. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I return your Grace my thanks for the orders you have given for the release of the French prisoners, and for the sight of the several despatches which the messenger brought to me from Woburn. I intend to be in London early to-morrow morning, and shall wait your Grace's commands to attend you either that evening or the next as shall suit

think so of any others whose professions are the following of a court, and raising themselves in the world by that means. I think him full as good a man as his neighbours ; more able, and as willing to serve those that serve him, as any one I have been acquainted with, in that way, for a great while."—*Coxe's Pelham Administration*, vol. i. p. 448.

your Grace's convenience best: I presume that will be on Wednesday. I entirely agree with your Grace in opinion that we have a right to demand some latitude in the sending back of the Russian troops, the necessity of which in some measure depends on their own act, and the visible proofs we have that all their public zeal, as far as regards the maritime powers, is owing to our money: we are their paymasters, and the court of Vienna their governors. I foresaw this early; and in consequence of that wrote to Lord Hyndford to apprise him of what would be expected about two months ago; I have had an answer, acknowledging the justice of my reasoning, but no assurances or hopes of the end being gained. Sandwich's letter of the 14th to the Duke of Newcastle is incomparable; I subscribe to every word of it, and never had a thought of the House of Austria but what is contained in the reasoning of that letter. I hope he will keep firm, make his definitive treaty, and then he nor any one else need fear of the accession of all the other powers. My best compliments attend the Duchess of Bedford, and beg leave to assure your Grace that I am, &c.

1748.

H. PELHAM.

1748.

COMTE D'HASLANG TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Juillet, 20^{me}, 1748.

My Lord Duc,

Depuis que j'ai eu l'honneur de parler à votre Excellence sur l'affaire de mon domestique, j'ai appris que, non seulement sans ma permission, mais même à mon inscu, il a eu la hardiesse de recourir à un tribunal du pays.

Comme par cette démarche il a agi sans mes ordres et contre son devoir, il s'est rendu indigne de la protection que je lui aurais accordée, et que je refuserai à tous ceux de mes domestiques qui, se conduisant sans mon consentement, tombent aveuglément dans toutes sortes de mauvaises affaires.

En le regardant donc congédié de mon service dès le moment qu'il s'en est rendu indigne par sa conduite, je n'ai plus sujet, my Lord, de renouveler mes premières instances, et je suis prêt d'en user de même à l'égard de tous les autres, dèsque je les trouverai capables de commettre la même faute, ou à l'égard de tous ceux qui, par des crimes, ou toute autre mauvaise démarche, se seront rendus indignes de ma protection, dèsque selon la coutume générale de toutes les cours on m'aura fait donner avis.

Je me flatte aussi de donner une nouvelle marque de ma parfaite attention pour votre Excellence, si je vous rends la lettre que vous m'avez écrite le 30 Juin. Quoique ce soit une lettre particulière je ne pourrais pas la garder sans la communiquer à ma

cour et aux autres ministres étrangers, et dont le contenu pourrait fournir occasion a des réflexions, et peut être même a des contestations qui ne manquent pas de survenir dans de pareils cas. 1748.

Je suis, avec une très parfaite vénération, &c. &c.
LE COMTE D'HASLANG.*

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, July ¹⁰/₂₁ 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am infinitely obliged to your Grace for the honour of your letter of the 30th, part in your own hand. The clear, kind, and friendly manner that you give your opinion upon the several points contained in it is the greatest mark of your friendship, and will be of the greatest use to me. However I may differ a little as to one or two points, your Grace will see there is nothing done contrary to your opinion as stated in that letter. Any subsequent act for enabling us to pay the last 100,000*l.* to the court of Vienna, to remove, if that would do it,

* "At a meeting of the Lords Justices, it was ordered, that a letter be wrote to the Attorney-General, to enter a cessat processus upon the indictment against Count Haalang's servants for an assault upon the beadle of St. George's pariah, and others." — *Minutes of meeting of Lords Justices*, July 21.

1748. all future difficulties, though I own I am in opinion
— for it, it is yet very remote; and as to the Prince
of Orange's proposal for small subsidies to be given
to retain some of the German Princes and their
troops in our interest, your Grace will see I have
given an absolute and positive negative to it in my
last letter to the Greffier. I am very impatient to
hear how you like what I have done. Since I came
here all my views and all my conduct has and will
tend to these two great objects, in which I hope we
all agree:—First, to conclude the definitive treaty as
soon as possible, the restitutions and cessions being
supposed to be made before, or at the same time.
For this I have laboured as hard as possible, and
have not been sparing of the strongest language to
the court of Vienna to oblige them to concur with
us: if they finally stand out, I don't see what we
shall do, except France will give us the provisional
possession of the Austrian low countries. I have
also inculcated and prepared for *reduction* of ex-
penses, as much as the best *economist* or any of my
best friends can wish. The next great point that
I must always have in view is keeping the old
alliance together and strengthening it, if possible,
with other powers. Any other system is, in my
opinion, destruction; and though, as I say to Legge,
it may seem specious at first, it must and will fail
in its execution. This is my sincere opinion, from
which, as an honest man, I cannot depart. The
king, I thank God, is most perfectly well: he had
like to have had an ugly accident yesterday, by an

overturn in his cursed *chaise roulante*, but he got 1748.
no hurt at all. My service to all friends.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. KEENE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Lisbon, July 23. 1748.

My Lord,

I will not be so troublesome to you as to pretend to express how much I am honoured by your private letter of the 14th June, but shall content myself with assuring your Grace, that I cannot have greater satisfaction than in receiving your particular commands; and that this corner of the world will be more agreeable if it produces any thing that can tempt your Grace to employ me in your service. It will be no little vanity to me to have contributed in any manner imaginable to the beauties of Woburn; and I am extremely sorry I cannot do it so soon as I wish, for want of the list which has unfortunately been omitted out of your Grace's letter. The next packet will, I hope, bring it to me; and if it should be necessary for me to know the particular season when the seeds or plants are to be made use of in England, I doubt not but your Grace will please to let me have that information, and I shall take my measures accordingly.

I flatter myself your Grace will believe I am too proud of your commissions ever to think they can

1748. — give me any trouble. I have the justest sense of the obliging manner in which you have been pleased to charge me with them ; and I shall endeavour to convince you that none of your oldest servants and dependents can have a more sincere desire to obey your commands, nor be with more respect than, my Lord, &c. &c.

B. KEENE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Aix, August 2. 1748. N. S.

My Lord,

I have delayed writing to your Grace for this day or two past, in hopes of being able to send you the project of the definitive treaty ; but as that performance requires a good deal of care, and ought not to be finished in a hurry, I fear I shall not be able to despatch it till the day after to-morrow, or till to-morrow night at soonest. In the mean time, that your Grace may not be unapprised of the general state of things here, I will go through the substance of your several despatches of the 23d, 26th, 28th, and 29th of last month.

As to the method we are in with regard to the definitive treaty ; M. St. Severin communicated to us a project he received a few days ago from his court, in answer to which Count Bentinck and I have drawn up a counter-project, which we shall certainly be able to communicate to him to-morrow ;

after which I will immediately despatch them both to your Grace, with a full and explicit account of all that passes with the French minister upon this occasion. 1748.

The late orders he has received from his court do not allow him to agree to our proposal of having the Low Countries made over into our possession, till such time as the Empress Queen shall accede; as it is not judged that we can give sufficient security for the cession of the establishment, and for the restitution to be made on the side of Italy to the allies of France; and, indeed, if we consider that, by their agreeing to that proposition, the whole power of executing the conditions of the definitive treaty would be put into our hands, we ought not to be surprised that the French court are averse to a measure that will give us such an advantage over them.

By their refusal to come into this idea, we must revert to the measure either of carrying the court of Vienna along with us, or obliging them to follow us by an immediate accession by a secret article of the same nature as that which was signed with the preliminaries: and I think that method can be liable to no objection on the part of France, as they risk nothing; since, though they had signed the definitive treaty, we could not proceed to the cessions till the court of Vienna had acceded. And I own I cannot well imagine that court would be able to stand out, when a reasonable definitive treaty was signed with France by the other three

1748. powers of the alliance, together with a secret article
— of the nature I now mention.

I think I can plainly see, by Sir Thomas Robinson's despatches of the 25th of last month, which I received the night before last, as well as by Count Kaunitz's* present language and behaviour, that the repeated instances that have been lately made at the court of Vienna have had some effect.

I think they begin to find that we will not delay the conclusion on any account; and they seem apprehensive of the consequences of our signing without them. On this account M. Kaunitz never fails to express his earnest desire to finish at the same time with us, and to give me all possible assurances of the sincerity of the intentions of his court. But he still adheres positively to his system of concluding in separate treaties, and not in one general one: and in a conference which I had with him in Count Bentinck's presence yesterday morning,—after both he and I had received our despatches from Vienna, when I told him that I hoped the orders he had received would enable him to go on with us in the measures necessary to hasten towards a conclusion, and that, accordingly, I was ready to set pen to paper, in conjunction with him, to form a plan of a general definitive treaty,—he answered he could not come into any thing of that sort; that I knew his court thought that method of proceeding impracticable; and that, till that question was

* Minister from the court of Vienna.

finally discussed and settled between our superiors, 1748.
it was impossible he could take any part with me in
a measure he disapproved.

I told him that I could not help observing to him the disagreeable situation I am in at this place, by the manner in which his court manages the negotiation; that whenever we apply to Vienna for explanations we are sent back, and told that the whole is in Count Kaunitz's hands; and when I apply to him, I find him determined in every circumstance to adhere to the letter of his instructions; by which means, on the first new matter that occurs, we are again sent back to Vienna.

I then asked him if he had not received the project of a treaty from his court, as Sir Thomas Robinson mentioned to me one that had been sent to him on the 17th of last month, which he supposed had been communicated to me. He answered me that he had such a project, and that I should see by that that our suspicions as to the intentions of his court were without foundation.

I told him that plan could best speak for itself; and that I should be able to form some judgment how things really stood after the perusal of it.

He then went home, and returned soon after with his plan of a separate treaty; but he told me he was under much distress about the manner of communicating it to me, as he had a commission from his court to show it me, but no orders to give me a copy.

I represented that a cursory view of a Latin

1748. treaty could serve to give me but little information, and that I hoped he would determine to give me a copy of it. He answered that his court was so very nice, in insisting upon the exact and literal execution of all their orders, that he must take a little time to consider before he determined what step to take in this matter. He accordingly left me once more, and returned again in the afternoon to tell me he had resolved, let what would happen, to give me the paper in question ; which your Grace will accordingly find herewith enclosed.

Your Grace will be the best judge whether this object takes off all our cause of suspicion as to the intention of the court of Vienna to adhere to her reservations ; but for my own part I cannot help observing, that, supposing it should be agreed to go on in this method, they appear to me to have carried their point in every respect. The only thing by which they are tied, either to maintain their engagements in favour of the King of Sardinia, or to guaranty Silesia and Glatz to the King of Prussia, is the insertion of the preliminaries. But we must consider that their engagements on those two points are utterly invalidated by their ratifications, which re-establish the declaration of the 23d of May ; which, unless they are obliged to revoke by some subsequent act, will certainly always be considered by them as remaining in full force.

Besides, according to this system, they elude the being obliged to accept the Low Countries upon the foot of the barrier treaty ; as also, that the towns

which were garrisoned by the Dutch should be restored to the troops of the republic ; upon both which points your Grace knows great stress is laid at the Hague ; and certainly there will be no means of establishing them in the manner we desire, unless the court of Vienna is obliged, by the necessity of her affairs, to come into a general definitive treaty drawn up by England and Holland. 1748.

. Before I finish all I have to say relative to the court of Vienna, I must mention one word concerning the note that was delivered by Count Uhlfeld to Sir Thomas Robinson on the 25th of last month ; in which it is supposed that the representations that have been made by that minister have owed their rise to something that has been misunderstood between Count Kaunitz and me. It is a very fortunate circumstance for me, in this situation, that Count Bentinck is with me, and is a witness of every thing that passes. This letter is wrote in concert with him, and speaks his sentiments as much as it does mine. After which I leave your Grace to judge whether I have misunderstood M. Kaunitz in any of my former representations relative to his conduct in the negotiation.

As I am mentioning M. Bentinck, whose zeal and ability in business, and whose particular friendship to me I can never praise too much, I must represent to your Grace a dilemma we are both under in an affair of a good deal of importance, which is, whether we should communicate our plan of a general treaty to M. Kaunitz or not. We per-

1748. ceive that it is your Grace's intention we should do so; but we imagine that that is on a supposition that he does not refuse to co-operate with us in the measure; otherwise, it is plain we give him an advantage in letting him into our whole secret, which it is not certain he will make the best use of. And perhaps it may be no disadvantage to our affairs, if it should be thought necessary by your Grace to communicate this plan to the court of Vienna; that the first impression about it should be made by M. Wasner, whose disposition I have always understood to be extremely good.

Besides, if France finds that we are not agreed among ourselves (which will certainly be the case whenever this plan is communicated to the court of Vienna), or that we (England and Holland) are not determined to go on at all events, we shall entirely lose all confidence in that quarter, and have no way left but to proceed in the negotiation in some degree of subjection to the temper of the court of Vienna.

As to any objection that may be made to our proceeding, I think we are fully justified in not communicating a project to a minister which he previously disavows, and declares he will at no rate give into without fresh orders; and surely his behaviour in keeping back his plan, which he has had by him above a fortnight, and would probably never have mentioned to me that such a piece existed, if I had not learnt it from Sir Thomas Robinson, gives M. Bentinck and me sufficient

authority to suspend the execution of your Grace's orders, about communicating our plan to Count Kaunitz, till such time as we can receive an answer to this letter, which cannot occasion a delay of more than five or six days. 1748.

As for Chavannes, he positively assures us that he will go on with us at all events, and that we may depend upon his signing to the general definitive treaty built upon the foot of the preliminaries whenever it is ready; and he is grown very reasonable upon the demand for the King his master, relative to the communication with the sea through the Genoese territories, as he will not desire to stop the conclusion a moment on that account, provided we will agree to support the question by all means in our power as far as it will bear.

As he agrees in our measures, we intend to communicate our project to him in confidence, before we deliver it to M. St. Severin; but we will give him no copy of it, to prevent any complaints being made, if ever any such proof existed of our greater confidence in him than in other people.

As to the dispute about the Assiento contract, it remains just where it did; and if neither party will yield, in case the whole should depend upon that article, I fear it must occasion some delay in the negotiation: I have, indeed, again talked to M. Sotto Mayor, and represented to him the necessity of his giving me a final answer, whether he will agree to leave it as it stands in the preliminaries, or whether we must both of us insist upon an explana-

1748. tion in our favour, whenever the definitive treaty is in any forwardness. He still desires a few days more, as he has yet received no new orders; but he set out yesterday morning for Valenciennes, where he is to meet the Duke de Huescar*, with whom he will talk over every thing that is at present upon the *tapis*: and on his return, which will be on Monday or Tuesday next at farthest, give me his decisive answer upon this point.

It is very possible that, on M. Sotto Mayor's return, he may again mention, and lay more stress upon, the guaranty of the kingdom of Naples than he ever did before; and if his Majesty has no material objection to it, and that it could be shuffled into the general article, it might have a very good effect with the court of Spain, and probably engage them to show more facilities on the other points.

I shall now answer those parts of your Grace's several despatches that relate more immediately to France, though I must reserve myself upon many particulars, till I send away my next messenger with an account of all that has passed between St. Severin, Bentinck, and me upon our delivering and running through the several articles of our counter-project.

As to the article relative to Dunkirk, St. Severin's own plan says, *que les forts et batteries, du côté de la mer, seront rasés et détruits*; but I think I shall get it passed with still stronger ex-

* Afterwards, on the death of his mother, Duke of Alva, and successor, for a short period, to Cawajal.

planations in our favour, according to the tenour of my former letters. 1748.

The idea of a reciprocal guaranty, in favour of all the contracting parties, is proposed in the French plan itself; but, upon our representing to St. Severin our strong inclination that no powers should be invited to accede, except those who signed the preliminaries, he, without much difficulty, came into our idea, and declared his readiness to substitute in the room of the article which says that they shall be invited to accede, another declaring that all the powers that are benefited in any shape by this treaty shall be understood as engaged in a reciprocal guaranty of all the substance of it; and we don't mention a word of their accession.

This facility on the part of M. St. Severin will help us out of all our difficulties with the court of Russia and the King of Prussia; since, as no one will be invited to accede, no one will have any just cause of complaint: but then I fear it will be impracticable for me to get the word *possessions* mentioned in the guaranty of his Majesty's dominions, for the guaranty will be reciprocal; and it will be impossible to get the court of Vienna into so general a guaranty in favour of all the parties interested in the treaty: nor, perhaps, would it be prudent either for England or Holland to tie themselves down, any more than it would be for the house of Austria.

I must still inform your Grace that I do not

1748. think the idea of sending hostages to England for the restitution of Madras will be admitted by France, as they say that the proposal when it came from us was considered as an equivalent to be set against the very just demand they might have made, of detaining part of the Low Countries as a security for the restitution of our conquests in the East Indies; that that must always be considered as a great concession on their part, and as a proof of their good disposition, with regard to a general pacification; and that this demand of ours was new, and what, if insisted upon, might possibly spoil the whole proposition.

As to what relates to the discharge of the Russian troops, I have kept your Grace's letter to Major-General Mordaunt in my hands, with the intention not to send it till I had signed the convention with M. St. Severin for the discharge of an equal number of French troops; and he expects a courier this evening, with an answer to some despatches he wrote in reply to some objections, started by M. Puysieux, to the counter-project which I received from your Grace; after which, with the latitude I have at present in my instructions upon that point, I flatter myself I shall be able to conclude this business with him.

I shall carefully conceal from him the orders already despatched for their return; and let him continue to imagine that that measure depends upon our conclusion of the convention in question; and it is plain, by Lord Hyndford's letter of the

28th of June, that we have hardly any other resource than that of sending back these troops immediately. I shall not make any unnecessary difficulties concerning this convention, but hasten, by all means, to the conclusion of it; since, if it should once get to the ears of France that private disputes of our own had obliged us to order their return, it might render them more difficult with regard to the conditions of their own reform. 1748.

His Majesty's orders, despatched to General Mordaunt and to Prince Repnin the 29th of last month, render it unnecessary for me to send away your Grace's letter to General Mordaunt of the 26th of July; but I shall keep it by me as a proof to St. Severin that all that relates to the return of these troops is in my hands.

I have exchanged the ratifications of the act of the 8th of July with France, and also with the republic, whose ratifications your Grace will receive by this messenger, so that all further discussion upon that point is at an end.

I should have paid all due attention to your Grace's orders of the 28th of July if the case had existed, and that I had been near signing with St. Severin; but there is no occasion to hurry this matter, without giving his Majesty time to see the whole state of the question fairly laid before him. St. Severin's intention is to act that part with regard to his court, and I am sure the same reason exists in all its extent on our side.

The present purpose of the French minister is,

1748. as soon as he has received our counter-project to set out for Compeigne, where he will stay no more than two days; and he will come back fully authorised, as he hopes and believes, to conclude immediately.

Count Bentinck intends to take the same opportunity of going to the Hague, where he will be able to explain every thing by word of mouth much better and more secretly than by letter; and he will return here and meet St. Severin at the time of his return from Compeigne; which, I suppose, will be near the period of my receiving an answer to my dispatches, which will go by the next messenger: so that I am in hopes we shall all be ready and fully apprised of the final sentiments of our respective courts at one and the same time.

I have delivered to M. St. Severin the ratification of the act of the 21st, and he has returned me the faulty one, and cancelled my declaration, promising a new ratification.

The Genoese minister has acceded to the act of the 8th of July, as your Grace will see by the enclosed act of accession, and my acceptance; and I have taken this opportunity to ascertain that the cessation of hostilities is to take place from the accession of the several parties, and not from the original signing of the preliminaries.

I enclose a copy of the declaration I delivered to him before I accepted his accession, and I shall observe the same method with the Spanish minister.

The same gentleman has wrote a letter to the

several ministers, of which the enclosed is a copy, 1748.
to complain of contributions lately raised upon the
territories of the republic of Genoa. I have spoke
to M. Chavanne upon this affair, and he tells me
that as the King his master's subjects in Savoy
have been treated by Spain in the same way, he is
justified in acting the same part with regard to the
allies of Spain, whose dominions are in his pos-
session.

When I had wrote so far of my letter, M. St. Severin came to me, and informed me he had received orders to conclude the convention relative to the discharge of the Russians, upon the footing of a project concerted a few days ago between Count Bentinck, him, and me, with the simple addition of the words *ou une pareille quantité*, for he says that though he engages to withdraw from Flanders the stipulated number of troops; yet it is impossible they can agree to break those individual battalions and squadrons, as they must proceed according to the seniority of their establishment, as is always usual upon these occasions; and indeed as the troops are to be recalled out of Flanders, and consequently no way possible to be employed till another campaign, it should seem immaterial whether the reform is made of those or of others of their forces.

I will write to Major-General Mordaunt to desire he would give me the earliest notice of the time on which the Russians begin their march homewards, that I may give M. St. Severin authentic inform-

1748. ————— ation of it, in order to our fixing the time when the French reform is to take place; and I must beg of your Grace, as it is very probable that you may receive notice of it before I can have an answer from General Mordaunt, that you would apprise me of it as soon as ever it comes authentically to your knowledge.

Count Kaunitz has communicated to me his project of an act of cession of the establishment for the infant Don Philip, together with the diploma containing the Emperor's approbation of the said act, copies of which your Grace will find herewith enclosed.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

P. S. Your Grace will find enclosed the convention for the discharge of the Russians duly signed and executed.

I perceive that upon re-examining M. Doria's letter, I have mistaken the subject of it in my public despatch, which was owing to that gentleman's complaining to me at the time when he gave me the letter of the illegal contribution that had been raised in the territories of his republic; and the hurry of business I have been in for this day or two past made me less attentive to the substance of his letter than to his representations.

However, there is very little harm done, as all that matter shall be set to rights to-morrow.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

Tunbridge Wells, Sunday, 10 o'clock.

My dear Lord,

I came here yesterday to see my daughter, and pass a day with her; which I am extremely sorry for, as it has prevented the return of Walton, the messenger, to Woburn so soon as your Grace expected him; I always designed being at Greenwich to-morrow morning, which I was in hopes would have been soon enough to have received any commands of your Grace's. I have carefully read over all the very material letters which came by Lucas the messenger; the contents of them are not only referred to the consideration of his Majesty's servants here, but, I think, require a very serious and thorough discussion. I have taken the liberty to send them to Lord Chancellor, desiring that his Lordship will peruse them against the time we meet in London. I hope your Grace will have the goodness to send me word when you shall come to London: be it to-morrow night or Tuesday morning, I will certainly be in town by the time. I should think your Grace would not summon an extraordinary Regency to-morrow: it might create alarms; but for the future I conclude we shall meet twice a-week; business comes on apace, and, as my brother is quite alone, he must necessarily wish for answers to his several despatches pretty regularly. I conclude your Grace and Lord Chancellor will be of opinion that we should meet

1748. as soon as possible, and that the Duke of Dorset, Lord Gower, and the Duke of Argyle, at least, should be summoned; if they are out of town, messengers should be sent for them, which will be a reasonable excuse for not sending the result of our conferences so soon to Hanover: but if your Grace and Lord Chancellor can have a previous meeting on Tuesday morning, or any time that day before the post goes out, I will attend you; and if you think Downing Street a more convenient place than either of your own houses, I will be ready to receive you any hour you shall appoint, or attend you at Powys house if that is more agreeable. I am heartily vexed at my being here, but I hope no great inconvenience will arise from it. I will just say to your Grace that, in my opinion, the resolution we come to upon these letters will, in great measure, determine the fate of affairs both abroad and at home: you know my thoughts tend very much the same way as your Grace's, which makes me like 'em the better.

I am, &c.

H. PELHAM.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, July 26. 1748.

My Lord,

I have this evening seen my Lord Chancellor and Mr. Pelham, and have gone through,

with great attention, your Grace's several letters of the $\frac{15}{26}$ th and $\frac{17}{28}$ th, which were brought me by Lucas the messenger; but as no other Lords were in town with whom his Majesty has been pleased to direct us to consult on this occasion, and whose opinions could be taken on an affair of so great importance, we have been obliged to defer till to-morrow the reference which his Majesty has been graciously pleased to make to us. I must, however, inform your Grace that it is the opinion of the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham, as well as my own, that the steps already taken to induce the Empress Queen to consent to the immediate conclusion of the definitive treaty, and the several other measures that his Majesty has thought proper to take for bringing this great affair to a speedy and safe conclusion, are undoubtedly what, in our humble opinion, are the wisest and most proper that could be taken in the present circumstances: and it is to be hoped that the Empress Queen will see the strength of the reasoning which Sir Thomas Robinson is directed to urge so strongly to her, in so just a light, that Count Kaunitz will receive orders from his court to consent to what has been proposed to him by Lord Sandwich. As I hope to be able to see some more of his Majesty's servants to-morrow, I believe I shall be able to send your Grace by Friday night's post the result of the opinion the Lords shall think most proper to submit to his Majesty.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

1748. P. S. I send your Grace herewith Sir Thomas
Robinson's full power passed under the great seal.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, July 29. 1748.

My Lord,

In pursuance of his Majesty's directions, signified to me in your Grace's separate and private letter of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th instant, directing my Lord Chancellor, Mr. Pelham, and myself, to consult with such of his Majesty's servants as we should think proper, I, with their advice and consent, appointed a meeting last night with them, my Lord President, my Lord Privy Seal, the Dukes of Richmond and Argyle, in order to communicate to those Lords the important affairs I had received from your Grace, his Majesty's orders to refer to their consideration in your Grace's dispatch from Hanover, of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th instant.

My Lord President and the Duke of Richmond being both out of town, my Lord Privy Seal and the Duke of Argyle were the only Lords who met the Chancellor, Mr. Pelham, and myself.

Upon taking the several points of business into our most serious consideration, and having carefully gone through your Grace's despatch of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th, with the several enclosures contained therein,

relating to the matters referred to us, we have unanimously agreed to submit this our most humble opinion to his Majesty, that considering the present critical situation of affairs, and the necessity of coming to a speedy conclusion of a peace, that if the court of Vienna should still stand out after the pressing remonstrances his Majesty has been pleased to make to her, his Majesty should give directions to Lord Sandwich to conclude the definitive treaty with France and her allies, in conjunction with the Republic of Holland and the King of Sardinia, upon the footing of the preliminary articles, to which as the Empress Queen has herself acceded purely and simply, we humbly conceive it cannot be deemed offensive, or any breach of friendship towards her, as in reality it will be only carrying into execution her own act. 1748.

That it is likewise our humble opinion, that it is much to be wished that no part of the Austrian Netherlands should be left in the possession of France, if that can be possibly avoided.

Upon the principle above-mentioned, there have occurred to us but two methods left of concluding a definitive treaty without the Empress Queen's being a party to it, the one suggested by your Grace, in your letter to me of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th instant, that France should deliver the provisional possession of the Austrian Netherlands to the maritime powers, and the other which we now take the liberty humbly to mention for his Majesty's consideration, viz. the agreeing to, and signing an act for the execution of

1748. that part of the preliminaries which relates to the restitutions and cessions, which act Count Kaunitz has declared he would be willing to come into; taking care at the same time to insert therein that the Empress Queen shall hold the Austrian Netherlands on the same footing, and in particular as to the Dutch barrier, as they were before the commencement of the war; and at the same time a definitive treaty be proposed and settled, in order to its being immediately signed between his Majesty's minister and those of the other powers which should be declared to Count Kaunitz, and he be invited to concur in it.

That we apprehend that difficulties may arise in carrying either of the above propositions into execution. As to the first, not only what is mentioned in H. R. H.'s letter of July $\frac{13}{24}$, but also with regard to the great expence the supporting garrisons in that country must inevitably bring upon this nation, over and above what may be supposed to be raised out of the revenues of those provinces.

As to the other, though it is not liable to the objections made to the former, and has this utility in it that by it great part of the plan of the peace of Europe will be fixed and executed, yet this consequence must be foreseen from it, that there will not be the same inducement to the Empress Queen to join in or accede to the definitive treaty, as there would have been in case she had not been put into the previous possession of the Austrian Netherlands. There is one farther consideration arises upon com-

paring these two propositions together, and that is, 1748.
it will by the first be the more in the power of
Great Britain and Holland to settle the Dutch
barrier, and the terms and manner of supporting it
to your own satisfaction, by having the provisional
possession of the Austrian Netherlands in their own
hands.

Upon the whole we are humbly of opinion, that
it may be advisable for his Majesty to come into
either of the above propositions that shall be found
practicable, rather than to delay the conclusion of a
definitive treaty with France and her allies, unless
some more eligible expedient shall occur to his
Majesty, or shall be suggested by Lord Sandwich
from Aix, where we apprehend this matter must
have been fully considered after the receipt of your
Grace's despatches of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th, and from whence we
cannot but hope some farther lights may soon be
obtained.

We are thoroughly sensible that nothing has
been left undone by his Majesty in order to induce
the Empress Queen to give the proper instructions
to her minister at Aix-la-Chapelle to hasten the
conclusion of the definitive treaty; and we are still
in hopes that the pressing orders despatched by
your Grace to Sir Thomas Robinson by three suc-
cessive couriers, to make the strongest instances at
the court of Vienna in his Majesty's name, both to
the Emperor and Empress, will so far open their
eyes with regard to their real and solid interest that
they will not suffer themselves any longer to be led

1748. away by any motives of pique or resentment, especially after the strong though friendly admonitions his Majesty has so wisely thought proper to make to them.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, August 2. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I have received your Grace's letter of $\frac{\text{July } 24}{\text{Aug. } 4}$ as likewise of $\frac{\text{July } 27}{\text{Aug. } 7}$. Your Grace will see by my despatches to you subsequent to that of the $\frac{15}{28}$ th July, that I had laid before his Majesty's servants the several points referred to them, as likewise the result of your deliberations upon them. I have the pleasure to be able to inform your Grace that I have likewise communicated to the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham the several despatches sent by your Grace to the Earl of Sandwich, Sir T. Robinson, Lord Hyndford, Mr. Legge, and the Greffier, in relation to the several points now in agitation, which did appear to us all to be entirely calculated to remove the difficulties that might retard the great work of peace, and the properest steps that could be taken in the present conjuncture. As I have received from Lord Sandwich the project of

the definitive treaty drawn up by M. St. Severin, 1748.
 the counter-project in answer to it by his Lordship
 and Monsieur Bentinck, and likewise one drawn by
 Comte Kaunitz, I will not fail, in pursuance to the
 directions I have received from your Grace, to lay
 them before the King's servants, as likewise the
 two points referred to us by his Majesty's orders, in
 relation to the Sardinian subsidy and the Assiento
 contract, and to transmit as soon as possible the
 opinion they shall judge proper most humbly to
 submit to his Majesty's consideration.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
 NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, August 5. 1748.

My Lord,

I have, according to the directions contained in your Grace's letter of $\frac{\text{July } 24}{\text{Aug. } 4}$, immediately upon the receipt of M. St. Severin's project, and the counter-project drawn up in answer to it by the Earl of Sandwich and M. Bentinck, (both of which I received by the mail which came in late on Saturday night from Lord Sandwich,) laid them before the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham, who did, in conjunction with me, go through with great attention the two projects, and did compare them together article by article. I have also communicated to

1748. — them the project of Count Kaunitz for a separate definitive treaty with France; which has likewise undergone as strict an examination as the shortness of the time would allow.

I am now to inform your Grace of the judgment we have been able to form on the several papers and projects which have been transmitted hither by your Grace and Lord Sandwich, in relation to the important affair of concluding as soon as possible the general pacification; and we are of opinion, in case the Empress Queen can be prevailed upon to become a party in the general definitive treaty, (upon which supposition both the project and counter-project are drawn; and without which they must both equally fall to the ground,) that the counter-project, framed by the Earl of Sandwich and M. Bentinck, seems to be a proper plan of a definitive treaty to be proposed on the part of the allies as a basis of a treaty which may be admitted by all parties: and we are the more confirmed in this opinion, as it doth not appear to us, upon the comparing the two projects together, that the difference between them is so very material as not to give us sufficient grounds to hope that they may be finally adjusted by a mutual relaxation on some points, as well on the part of France as on our own; provided the Empress Queen, as I have mentioned above, can be induced to consent to become a party in this general definitive treaty.

That without this can be brought about, we are apprehensive that no treaty, founded on the basis of

either of the projects can be effected; and that as we see with great concern, by the informations your Grace has transmitted to me, there is great reason to apprehend the court of Vienna may still stand out, we would most humbly submit it to his Majesty's consideration, whether it might not be proper that Lord Sandwich should have directions to prepare a plan, in concert with M. Bentinck, which might still bring matters to a conclusion between all the other powers at war, even supposing that the Empress Queen should be so ill-advised as to continue her refusal of coming jointly in with us and the States General into one definitive treaty. And we also most humbly offer as our opinion to his Majesty, that the method proposed in the second proposition, contained in my despatch of July 29th to your Grace, for effectuating the restitutions and cessions, may be a likely means of bringing this affair to a conclusion. That, however, if this should not appear in the same light to his Majesty, we hope some other expedient may be found out by which this country and the rest of her allies may be enabled to conclude with the powers at war, though the court of Vienna should still persist in her former ideas, and not be obliged to delay the work of peace, so necessary for them all at a conjuncture when it seems impossible for them any longer to continue the war. That without some plan of this nature is formed, we do apprehend that the Empress Queen, seeing that the French will not agree to put us and the Dutch into the pro-

1748.

1748. visional possession of the Low Countries, will conceive that it is impossible for us to conclude without her, and will undoubtedly on that account become much more intractable, except every thing is done (though ever so unreasonable) to her own satisfaction.

That it doth appear to us, with regard to Count Kaunitz's project, that though it might possibly be a proper basis for a definitive treaty between France and that princess, had the war subsisted only between them two; yet, in the present circumstances of affairs, it doth not seem to us to be at all adequate to the great point in view; which is, to restore a general peace to Europe after so long, bloody, and expensive a war.

That we cannot help suggesting to your Grace as our opinion, which we would most humbly offer to his Majesty, that, upon considering the present situation of affairs, it doth not appear to us possible to carry on the war any longer on the Continent, should the negotiations for a peace with the court of France and its allies be unfortunately broke off through the obstinacy of the Empress Queen, more especially as the Russians have, upon very just reasons, received orders to march back into their own country, and the army of the allies in the Low Countries, which was before so inferior to that of France, must necessarily be more so now, as well by the dispersed condition it is now in, as also by the little confidence we can place in the Austrian troops, should the negotiations be broke off, and the war renewed

by the ill-advised behaviour of the Empress Queen. 1748.

That it seems needless to enumerate the several steps which have been lately taken, which would render the carrying on the war by sea much more difficult than before ; such as the recalling our several squadrons, as well from both the Indies as from the coasts of France and Spain, by means of which the enemy have obtained a breathing time, and we, on the contrary, by calling our ships home, and already paying some of them off, have incapacitated ourselves from annoying the enemy at sea as we have done heretofore. That these several reasonings, we do apprehend, do most plainly evince the fatal consequences that must follow the breaking off the negotiations of peace ; and we do therefore most humbly presume to lay these our most humble thoughts before his Majesty, submitting it to him that such orders may be given to Lord Sandwich, that, after having used all possible efforts to carry Count Kaunitz along with him and failing in them, he should not omit the first opportunity of concluding a definitive treaty with France and her allies, conformably to the preliminaries ; which step, if it is much longer put off, may, in our humble opinion, be of the most fatal consequences to his Majesty's interest, the common cause, and consequently of the Empress Queen herself.

That I must beg leave to inform your Grace that the several articles in the two projects are so numerous, and so full of matter of so various

1748. natures, that we apprehend it is impossible for us, in so short a time as we have yet had, to come to any fixed judgment upon what it may be proper to reject or admit in M. St. Severin's project, as likewise what parts of the counter-project we would humbly advise his Majesty to insist upon; and what parts of it might be proper to give Lord Sandwich a latitude to yield in, if found necessary.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, ^{July 27}
August 7. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I can add nothing to what I have wrote to my Lord Sandwich and your Grace upon the last letters I received from Aix; I enclose one I had at the same time from Bentinck, to which I have returned no answer. Keith is this moment come in, in his way to Vienna; I find by him Lord Sandwich and Bentinck think of nothing but signing the definitive treaty immediately. I am amazed at them; the only latitude that was ever given them to sign without Kaunitz was on the express condition that the provisional possession of the Low Countries should be given to the maritime powers:

that is now absolutely refused, and the other drops of course. I am afraid we should be thought but **bad** legislators should we sign a definitive treaty with France, give up Cape Breton to them, and leave Flanders in their hands. If France wants a farther security for the cession to Don Philip, why may not that make part of the condition on which the hostages are to be sent? I hope I shall soon know your thoughts upon all our great points depending. F—— has sent me the letter from Carvajal *; I should think no time should be lost in sending Keene from Lisbon: what character or credentials should he have?

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Greenwich Park, August 7. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I have read over the several letters and papers which your Grace honoured me with by Cox the messenger; I cannot say I am much more edified than your Grace was in the lecture of them. I can't but observe that at the same time the two projects are sent to us for our opinions upon them, they are accompanied with observations, and I think instructions, in the King's name sent to

* Spanish minister.

1748. Lord Sandwich. Are we, then, to represent
— against what is declared his Majesty's opinion, or
are we implicitly to agree because it is his Majesty's
opinion? I am glad, therefore, your Grace had an
opportunity of sending the thoughts of his Majesty's
servants here before the receipt of this paper, for
otherwise it might have put us under some new
difficulty. The Prince of Orange seems to be pre-
paring for a new war, before he has quite finished the
old one. King William did so, indeed, at the peace
of Ryswick, but then Holland was a power, and
England not so much in debt by sixty millions.
I am surprised and concerned to find these mea-
sures gain any attention: I am sure they cannot
meet with any essential support. We seem at
Hanover to content ourselves with laying the
blame upon the French, and justifying ourselves
by showing that St. Severin's project does not
come out so reasonable as we once hoped. But
what will that contribute to the enabling us to
carry on the war? nothing at all. I could write a
great deal on this subject, but your Grace has
enough of it in your own reflection; and I will not
be so cruel as to refresh your mind with any thing
more on this disagreeable subject. I return to
your Grace my brother's private letter, and when
I have the honour to see you on Tuesday or Wed-
nesday, I will bring with me his Grace's letter to,

My Lord,

Yours, &c.

H. PELHAM.

1748.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, ^{July 31}
^{August 11}, 1748.

My dear Lord,

I cannot avoid returning your Grace my most sincere thanks for your most kind and powerful support in our University affair, upon the prospect of the Duke of Somerset's death. Your Grace's influence and interposition were so great and seasonable, that I learn from my brother, and all hands, that had the event happened every thing would have gone as you wished it. The spirit and resolution which your Grace showed in an affair which the King had been pleased to espouse so warmly were so like yourself, that I could not avoid acquainting the King with it, who ordered me to assure your Grace that he took it very kindly.* I hope you approve all we have done: I endeavour to do for the best, and am extremely happy when it meets with your Grace's approbation. Though St. Severin's project is not quite so favourable as I hoped for, Kaunitz's is rather more so: so I hope we shall be able to conclude all at once, which will be the best end that can be of this great and difficult work. I have writ my brother

* Horace Walpole states the Prince of Wales intended offering himself, but on hearing the King's wishes in favour of the Duke of Newcastle he withdrew. — *Letters*, vol. ii. p. 234.

1748. my sentiments as to poor Lord Monson's employment, which I have desired him to communicate to your Grace. I wish some proper thing could be found out for the Duke of Leeds. I cannot mention poor Lord Monson without condoling with your Grace upon the loss of so valuable a man and so amiable a friend. I will speak to the King about the minister for Naples: considering poor Norris's disappointment, I should wish he might be pleased with this. The Duke wishes that Lord Rochford might go to Portugal in the room of Keene; if you have no objection to it I will speak to the King upon it. I conclude Cayley will not think of returning to Cadiz, but you shall know by next post. I shall not presume to interfere in any of those things. I beg my compliments to the Duchess, and am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

(Most secret.)

London, August 11. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am now to acknowledge your Grace's private letter to me of the 31st of last month, which I received at Woburn on Saturday last. It gives me great pleasure to find the steps I have taken in regard to the vacancy that it was apprehended was likely to happen in the University of

Cambridge by the death of the Duke of Somerset 1748.
has met with your Grace's approbation, and I am
much obliged to you for your having obtained his
Majesty's approbation of my conduct: I can assure
you, my dear Lord, I will omit nothing in my power,
in case that event should happen before the King's
return, to bring everything there to such a conclusion
as, I flatter myself, will be agreeable to his Majesty,
and honourable to yourself. I am glad to find you
have hopes (I suppose by what Sir Thomas Robinson
has told you) that the court of Vienna may be
brought to conclude *all at once*, which I take for
granted you mean that they will join with us in
concluding in one general definitive treaty with
France and her allies. I must own that has, during
the whole course of the negotiation, appeared to
me to be the likeliest (not to say the only) way to
obtain a solid and lasting peace.

To come now to affairs more immediately at
home: I have talked with Mr. Pelham about the
vacancy in the Board of Trade occasioned by the
death of Lord Monson, in whose loss I do most sin-
cerely condole with your Grace. I think both your
Grace's and Mr. Pelham's idea is, in which I do
most truly concur, that it would be highly im-
proper, considering the present situation of things,
to have a nonefficient man at the head of that
Board, and therefore I must take the liberty to
differ from you in the arrangement you have pro-
posed to Mr. Pelham, in order to make room for
the Duke of Leeds to come into a post suitable to

1748. his quality. To convince your Grace no one wishes the Duke of Leeds better than myself I will now mention an idea, but which I must own myself entirely unwarranted to suggest, having never mentioned it to one single soul but your brother, and that is, if Lord Halifax could be prevailed upon to exchange from what he now has to the Board of Trade (for which I should think him perfectly well qualified), the Duke of Leeds might succeed him as Chief Justice in Eyre. As I am entirely ignorant of Halifax's sentiments on this subject, I only mention this in confidence to your Grace as a means of getting the Duke of Leeds into an employment suitable for him, and at the same time putting an efficient man at the head of the Board of Trade. If your Grace should like this proposal, Sandwich would be the properest man to find out whether it would be agreeable to Halifax or not; I should rather incline to think it would, as a post of business seems to me to be the properest thing for one of Lord Halifax's turn.*

I hope soon to receive a letter from your Grace, to be forwarded to Mr. Keene, with directions to him to set out immediately for Madrid, if his health will permit him.

I am sure I shall make no objections to H. R. H.'s commands about Lord Rochford. I hope soon to

* John Lord Monson, first Commissioner of Trade, died July 20. He was succeeded in this office by Dunk, Earl of Halifax.

The Duke of Leeds was appointed Chief Justice in Eyre of the forests, &c. this side Trent, in place of Lord Halifax.

hear from you whether Mr. Cayley gives over all thoughts of going to Cadiz, as I only wait for that before I begin to prepare the commissions for consuls, in order to be laid before the King for his approbation and signature. 1748.

Mr. Pelham and I were talking to-day about Sir T. Robinson's appointments, and whether he was not to be put on the same foot with Lord Sandwich in relation to the plate, &c. and 100*l.* per week, as was the case both at Cambray and Soissons. Mr. Pelham desired me to mention this to you, as a thing we both thought reasonable. I question whether he has had time to write to you to-day as he proposed, as he was obliged to set out at 10 o'clock to-day for Halland*, in order to attend his constituents at the Lewes races to-morrow. My Lord Chancellor sets out for Wimple on Monday next, so I shall be left almost alone. I have two other long letters to write to your Grace by to-morrow's mail, on separate subjects, so will take up no more of your time than to assure you that

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

* The family seat in Sussex. of Stanmer, afterwards Earl of
On the death of the Duke of Chichester; by whom it was dis-
Newcastle in 1768, the estate dismantled: — a portion remains as
descended to Sir Thomas Pelham a convenient farmer's house.

1748.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, August $\frac{3}{14}$. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I trouble your Grace with such voluminous public despatches, that it would be very unreasonable in me to take up your time with any private ones, but I could not avoid sending you a short one I received from our friend Sandwich, upon the subject of Dunkirk, and a copy of a letter which I wrote to him by the last messenger, upon the present entangled situation of our affairs. Your Grace knows I love and esteem my Lord Sandwich, but I own I think he sometimes goes a little too far, and pursues one point without quite considering the consequences of it; that I take to be the present case of his negotiations with St. Severin; his view is good, but I differ about the means of obtaining it; I have however explained my thoughts so fully upon that subject, that I will not trouble your Grace with a repetition of them.

As to the letter proposed to be wrote about Dunkirk, your Grace will see I have avoided in the *remarks* giving any direct order upon it. The case stands thus: before the signing of the preliminaries, upon an intimation that that might facilitate the conclusion, and indeed the settling the affair of Dunkirk in a tolerable way, orders were sent to my Lord Sandwich to acquaint St. Severin, that upon

those conditions the King might wave the right of sending commissaries. Since I was here, Lord Sandwich wrote to know whether he might write a letter to that purpose to St. Severin, to which I sent him the answer, of which your Grace had at that time a copy, but that answer went no farther than allowing my Lord Sandwich to write such a letter, if St. Severin would consent to settle the article about Dunkirk in the manner I there proposed it, which is not the case. But as I am afraid M. St. Severin will insist upon having some such letter, I should be glad to know the opinion of the King's servants in England, whether in case that should be so, Lord Sandwich might be permitted to write a letter agreeably to the draught transmitted to me jointly with Count Bentinck.

I am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

(Private.)

Aix, August 8. 1748. N. S.

My Lord*,

I have made the letter that encloses the minutes of what has passed between Bentinck, St. Severin, and me *private*, because they contain

* Enclosed in the preceding letter.

1748. an account of the letter to be wrote about Dunkirk, which you will find enclosed herewith. I suppose you will choose that that affair shall remain a perfect secret, and for that reason I would trust it in as few hands as possible, so shall leave it to your Grace to send a copy of that letter and of the minutes to England, or not, as you shall judge proper ; you will observe, however, that the Dutch will agree to sign the same letter, which, if ever the thing should be brought in question, will have a better appearance, and be more considered as a formal and concerted measure.

Every thing relating to that letter is wrote in my own hand, except the mention of it in the minutes, which will be copied by a person that will pass it over unobserved.

I must beg leave to caution your Grace again not to let it be mentioned to any one, not even to Mr. Wasner or Sir Thomas Robinson, that the idea about the expense of the barrier came from Kaunitz ; he is very apprehensive about his name being brought in question, which he says would spoil the affair, and do him great hurt at his court. The truth of this matter is, I believe, that Kaunitz depends greatly upon Mr. Bartenstein *, who is the person of the imperial court that supports the measures that are contrary to our inclination ; and though he (Kaunitz) sees the impossibility of

* Refendary in the Foreign office at Vienna ; an account of this minister, principally derived from

Mr. Robinson's despatches, will be found in *Coxe's History of the House of Austria*, vol. iv. p. 318.

carrying those measures through, yet he dare not appear to the other to have suggested methods of conciliation. Bentinck and I are at present very well pleased with this gentleman; his language is fair and open, and where his court is in the wrong he does not endeavour to defend her; and he even owned that since he had been here he had been obliged to execute several orders, which in his own opinion he disapproved. This, however, was all told to us in entire confidence, and I dare say your Grace will consider it as related to you in the same manner.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO LORD SANDWICH.

(Private.)

Hanover, August $\frac{2}{13}$. 1748.

My dear Lord *,

I believe you will be angry now with me in earnest; but you would have had more reason if I had concealed my opinion when I really differed from you. I own I wish you had not gone so fast with St. Severin, since you have seen that it would be very dangerous, if not impossible, to conclude without the court of Vienna. You know how much I pressed, many months ago, the forming

* Enclosed in the Duke of Newcastle's of August $\frac{3}{14}$.

1748. *ourselves* a project of a definitive treaty: and I am every hour convinced, not only that that was practicable, but that, by that, we should have avoided many disagreeable incidents which have happened from the want of it; we should have known what to insist upon, and what language to talk to both parties.

There is something very suspicious both in the substance of St. Severin's project and in the time of producing it. The hooking in in such a manner the guaranty of Lorrain (for that, if you will examine the 17th article, is certainly the case) is a true French trick, and shows the plan to be of Du Thiel's drawing; and he is to come to take care of such turns in expression, &c. However, he is a knowing sensible man, and *decent*; and the sending him shows they intend to conclude. The 2d article would sound very odd in an English treaty, especially when the young Pretender is publicly protected by France in his residence in Switzerland: but that I hope will get rectified. St. Severin's behaviour about the Assiento is as unfriendly as what I have before mentioned is unfair. It is plain the difficulty is kept up by France; Sotto Mayer, by his accession, departed from it; and no reasonable man on earth who considers it can say there is foundation for the objection: why the years of *non-jouissance* confined to this last war? why not (as in fact it was) to the war in 1718, in 1727, &c.? My good friend Bentinck is mighty apt of late to give up all our points. I may now in

confidence, acquaint you that I have had a hint from London, some time ago, that it would be thought very wrong, if a definitive treaty of this consequence (which could not be corrected afterwards as the preliminaries have been) should be signed and completed, without having been first seen and approved by the King at Hanover, and also by *his servants in England*. This has confirmed me in the cautions I have given; and was, in some measure, originally the cause of them. I am as much for concluding as ever; but I own I have not the same opinion of St. Severin's *power* or *disposition* as I had. Had they given us the provisional possession of Flanders, in which they could run no risk, all must have ended well and soon. Then we could have gone roundly to work with them, and *safely*: that is not now the case; so we must have more management for the court of Vienna. We can't conclude without them, though I am, if necessary, for making them believe otherwise. I could have wished that, when you saw this was the case, you had held your hand a little with St. Severin, and had been a little more gracious to Kaunitz; especially as his behaviour of late has given occasion for it. I can be as strong with the court of Vienna as any body, as I was in the orders sent to Sir T. Robinson, which have had an extreme good effect, as you see: but if I have no *resource* (as in this case at present I have not), I must go on with prudence, and consider a little where things will end. You have often told me, my dear Lord, that

1748.

1748. you would follow my system; I never desire you should, when I vary from the old unalterable system for England. You must have seen by all my late letters that the only justification for a separate signing was, in my opinion, the provisional possession of the Low Countries; that being absolutely refused, the supposition of signing separately falls, of course. I have had the honour of talking fully to his Royal Highness upon this subject: the Duke approves every word I have wrote; and I have the honour to think entirely as H. R. H. does. He has not yet seen the letters I write this day, but has seen yours, the *précis*, &c. &c., and the paper of *remarks* upon the *précis*, which goes in my letter of this day. I am amazed you had not mine of the 6th before yours of the 9th came away. If you had received it, I fancy you would hardly have sent away those letters. We must look forwards, and endeavour to bring the whole to a conclusion with the concurrence of all parties. As to your going to the Hague, I have truly told you the objection to it; besides, it is not to be imagined that you would be able in two days to settle a convention of that immense difficulty and consequence, as one must be which is to settle the affairs of the Low Countries to the mutual satisfaction of the Queen of Hungary and the Dutch. I must now say one word about Sir T. Robinson. He is gone with the best disposition to you imaginable. He has given great satisfaction here, both to the King and the Duke, with whom he has talked very fully.

He is perfectly apprised of all that has passed, and fully informed of the King's thoughts and wishes, and those of his servants. He also thinks he knows the court of Vienna, and what they will finally do. The Low Countries will get them: if France would have given them us *provisionally*, we should have got the court of Vienna the next day; but since they would not do that, they must give the Low Countries to get the concurrence of the court of Vienna, and with that we shall have it. The method is plain: sign *to-morrow*, *cessions*, *evacuations*, and restitutions to be completed in a month, and ratify in six weeks. This leaves all parties without an excuse. Can you, my dear Lord, excuse St. Severin? look over his project again? is there the least sign of complaisance? That trifling punctilio of hostages, to force us to do such a silly absurd thing as to send hostages for what we have not, or don't know we have, and to refuse to give any for what all the world knows, they have in the very same place; and this, because we did not think of demanding it at first! Is not this taking an advantage which such a power as France should be ashamed of? Blowing up that weak poor court of Spain in the affair of the Assiento; hooking in *à la Sourdine* a guarantee for Lorraine; insisting upon the 2d article to show to the rebels; countenancing and placing the Pretender in Switzerland; and, at last, slipping in the fortifications of the *Ville de Dunkerque*; the greatest or great part of which being *du côté de la mer*, is, by

1748.

1748. the words of the preliminaries, to be demolished.

What has our behaviour been towards them? we have told them plainly, Show that you are in earnest by putting the Low Countries provisionally into our hands, we will then sign without our allies if they are unreasonable. We have sent away our Russians. We are ready to give hostages. All our orders to our admirals, &c. all over the world, are just as they wish them. In short, we do every thing. We desire nothing but the preliminaries; and that I am afraid we can't have! Why don't they immediately make the restitutions? They are obliged to it expressly by the preliminaries. I am weary of mustering up all these facts, when we must get as well out of them as we can. I am ashamed of the mistake I have made about the treaties of Madrid. I have endeavoured to set it right in my public letters. I shall long to have an answer to this. Don't be angry; I am not; though, I own, I am cruelly vexed, and a little with my good friend Bentinck. You have given fuel for many unlucky incidents which may happen.

Ever yours,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.1748.

(Private and separate.)

London, August 11. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am honoured with your Grace's letter from Hanover, of the $\frac{3}{14}$ instant, and did in pursuance of your Grace's desire, communicate it with its several enclosures last night to the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham, who, after a long and serious examination, did concur with me in the opinion I have now the honour to transmit to your Grace.

That in case in the course of the negotiation it should be found necessary that a letter, as proposed by Lord Sandwich, should be sent by his Lordship to Count St. Severin, in order to satisfy that gentleman that his Majesty did not intend to insist upon the sending commissaries to Dunkirk, it should, in our opinion, be drawn differently from what has been suggested by his Lordship to your Grace, as we think that carries along with it too strong and too implicit a reliance on the good faith of France; and we would therefore propose that a letter to the following effect might be substituted in its place; viz.

That he (Lord Sandwich), in consequence of the discourse he had some time before had with M. St. Severin, in relation to the affair of Dunkirk, is now authorised to acquaint him that the King, having a firm confidence that his most Christian Majesty

1748. will strictly cause to be put in execution whatever shall be stipulated in the definitive treaty in relation to Dunkirk, does not insist upon the sending of commissaries to attend upon and see the execution thereof.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, August 12. 1748.

My Lord,

In obedience to his Majesty's commands, signified to me in your Grace's several despatches of $\frac{\text{July } 31}{\text{Aug. } 1}$ and of Aug. $\frac{3}{14}$, enclosing copies of Lord Sandwich's private and most secret letters of $\frac{\text{July } 24}{\text{Aug. } 4}$, and a copy of your Grace's despatch to the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson, of $\frac{\text{July } 31}{\text{Aug. } 11}$, as also the *précis* or protocol of what passed in several conferences held between the Earl of Sandwich, Count Bentinck, and M. St. Severin, with his Lordship's letter, enclosing it to your Grace, and likewise a copy of your despatch to the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson, of the $\frac{1}{12}$ Aug., enclosing remarks upon the *précis*; I have not failed taking the very first opportunity of communicating to the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham their

several contents, who have jointly with me, upon 1748.
maturely considering the several points of business
referred to us, concurred in submitting this our
humble opinion to his Majesty.

To begin, in the first place, with the hint that Count Kaunitz has thought proper to throw out as from himself, with regard to the maritime powers engaging themselves to take some part of the expense of the barrier, and thereby easing the Empress Queen in the expense of supporting it, which Lord Sandwich does imagine might engage the court of Vienna to give up the point she has so stiffly adhered to, of not joining with us in one general definitive treaty, as likewise her reservations with regard to the treaty of Worms: if we understand it right, we conceive it can be effected in no other way than by this country taking upon herself a perpetual onerous engagement for defraying part of the expense necessary for the support of the barrier, which this country has never before been charged with, and which, considering the vast expense she has been at in carrying on the war for the preservation of the house of Austria, cannot, as we humbly conceive, be with any pretence of reason or justice expected from her.

That with regard to the general scope of the *projet*, the *contre-projet*, and Count Kaunitz's *projet*, we have, already, by my former despatch of the 5th instant, most humbly submitted our opinion in general thereupon to his Majesty; but as the remarks upon the *contre-projet*, the *précis* of the

1748. conversation, and the remarks thereupon, are since come to hand, together with your Grace's several letters to the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson; we have since read over and fully considered those several letters and papers, by which it appears that there are five points upon which the greatest stress seems to be laid by his Majesty, and which, we understand, it is his Majesty's pleasure his servants in England should take into consideration and transmit to your Grace their humble opinion thereupon, in order to its being laid before the King.

As to the first, we are firmly of opinion that the 2d article of the *projet*, which, we think, includes his Majesty's rebellious subjects, cannot, for that reason, be upon any account, admitted; and we are farther of opinion that the expedient of a separate convention, proposed by the Earl of Sandwich and Mr. Bentinck, will, in no degree, obviate the objections that lie against it, and therefore do submit it as our opinion that the article substituted in its room in the *contre-projet*, or something to a like effect, is what is most proper to be adhered to.

2d, That we cannot but approve of the words proposed by your Grace in relation to Dunkirk, in case they can be obtained; but that we can't help observing that the 3d article of the preliminaries is very generally drawn; and the words at the end, *pour le côté de mer, il restera sur le pied des anciens traitez*, may be plausibly construed by France, as relating only to the port and harbour,

and any works that have been, or may be, made for the fortification of such port and harbour, and therefore we humbly submit it to his Majesty whether it may be advisable, in the last extremity, to insist that the fortifications properly belonging to the town, though *de côte de mer* should be demolished. 1748.

3d, That we entirely concur in opinion with your Grace, that the King's guarantee of Lorraine and the Two Sicilies is included in the article, as drawn up in M. St. Severin's project, and therefore are of opinion that it will give his Majesty a just foundation for insisting that either the treaties of Vienna of 1731 and 1732 should be renewed, and France enter into the guarantees of those treaties, or else that she should admit the word *possessions* to be inserted in the other article of guarantee, which would, in our opinion, answer the same purpose.

4th, That the proposition made in the paper, called *projet d'arrangements*, &c., for the withdrawing the troops of the respective powers out of the countries to be restored, does not seem to us liable to any objection; but we are humbly of opinion that as to the obligation proposed in the same paper for making a proportionable reform of the troops of the respective powers within their own dominions it is absolutely inadmissible, as it is quite foreign to the preliminaries, and contrary to the usage of all former treaties.

5th, Having in my separate letter of the 5th instant transmitted to your Grace our humble

1748. opinion to be submitted to his Majesty in regard to the affair of the Assiento, I think it needless to enter into any farther discussion on that head, nothing having since occurred to induce us to vary our opinion thereupon. That we must beg leave humbly to submit it as our opinion to his Majesty, that as to the general conduct of the negotiation, it is certainly most desirable (if possible to be obtained) that the court of Vienna do agree with his Majesty and his allies in one general definitive treaty; and we are sensible that the instances which have been hitherto made towards the obtaining that end have been extremely proper, but that we must, with the greatest duty, submit it to his Majesty that great caution should be had not to leave the court of Vienna in an opinion that we either cannot or will not conclude without her, in case she continues obstinate, lest, upon that presumption, she should become more unreasonable and untractable.

That notwithstanding the good disposition which Sir T. Robinson has given your Grace reason to expect from that court, we do not as yet perceive any indication of their intention to depart from their resolution of not concurring in one general treaty, but, on the contrary, a determination to abide by that measure, though it has been so strongly represented against by his Majesty's orders both at Vienna and Aix-la-Chapelle.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.1748.

Whitehall, August 16. 1748.

My Lord,

Your Grace's letter from Hanover of the $\frac{9}{20}$ instant, came to the office late on Sunday night, and I communicated it this morning to their excellencies the Lords Justices : my Lord Chancellor being gone out of town I had no opportunity of communicating it to him.

Their Excellencies upon taking this matter into their consideration, as likewise the letter enclosed of Mr. Mordaunt's, suggesting "that the Russian troops should march immediately into certain quarters to be allotted them, in which they should remain till Christmas, and then continue their march with the first frost," have recommended to me to transmit to your Grace their humble opinion, in order to its being laid before his Majesty, that they do see no objection to this proposal made by Mr. Mordaunt, in case the court of Petersburgh can be prevailed on to acquiesce in it, and that it should likewise be approved of by the government of Holland, who are jointly concerned with us in the expense of these troops, and consequently interested with us in any saving that may be made in the expense.

It seems impossible to be able to form any judgment here, whether the court of Petersburgh will relish this proposal of Mr. Mordaunt's, more espe-

1748. cially as it seems calculated to lessen the expense of the maritime powers, which may possibly give them some pretext of discontent; but it ought at the same time to be considered by them, that this suggestion of marching through Poland in the winter months was first started by their late general Prince Repnin to Mr. Mordaunt, and was alleged by him to be the properest season for the passing through that country.

It must appear reasonable to all the world, that his Majesty has a right to demand of the court of Russia some relaxation with regard to the months excluded by the treaty for the march of these troops, as the punctuality with which his Majesty has fulfilled all his engagements to that court, and the vast expense his Majesty has already incurred, as well by the subsidy as by the incident expenses for the subsistence and the march of this auxiliary army, as also by the subsidies paid both this and the last year for the army of observation on the frontiers of Livonia, does most justly seem to entitle his Majesty to expect from the Empress of Russia, that she will show all possible facilities to lessen the necessary expense of these troops as much as can be, especially as the troops will not suffer by it, but, on the contrary, will be eased in their return by the King's agreeing to a winter's march through Poland, which, as above observed, was first suggested by Prince Repnin their late general, as the fittest time for troops to go through that country.

That it is to be hoped, that upon the Earl of

Hyndford and the Dutch minister making proper representations at Petersburg to this effect, the Empress will manifest her zeal for the common cause, by concurring in such measures as shall at the same time be for the ease of the maritime powers, and conducive to the preservation of the health of her own troops. 1748.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berlin, August 17. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I send your Grace a duplicate of my despatch to Hanover by this post. You will perceive by it, as well as from your correspondence with the Duke of Newcastle, upon what footing matters stand here. As much as the hopes I had conceived are abated, I do not yet despair; nor do I think the politics of this part of the world will be cleared up, and take an explicit turn till the definitive treaty is signed. Then at least we shall know what we have to trust to. In the meanwhile I shall use my utmost endeavour, that if we disagree (which I hope will not be the case), it may be from the impracticability of things, and not from any omission or misconduct of my own.

After the proposal that was made to me before I

1748. left London, of going to Aix, and the zealous approbation it received from Lord Sandwich, which led him even to offer his service in case the point were doubtful, I ought to be a little surprised to find that Sir Thomas Robinson is sent thither ; but I have known courts long enough to look upon promises and offers as a kind of earnest given for non-performance ; not that I am vain enough to measure myself against him whose experience and abilities give him so just a superiority. But these reasons were as well known before I left London, and are much too just for the decision to have been the real ones.

I cannot help breathing out my secret griefs to your Grace, as to a patron whose honour and friendship I always have, and know I always may rely upon, and shall dismiss the subject with the assurances of being ever, &c. &c.

H. LEGGE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, August $\frac{7}{18}$. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am very much obliged to your Grace for your kind letter, and your continued goodness about our Cambridge affairs. If it succeeds, it is

greatly owing to your care and resolution. I am heartily sorry for the disagreeable letters which this courier carries. I am sure I have given no occasion, either public or private, for this extraordinary conduct in my friend Sandwich. I hope, however, all will come right again when he reflects coolly on what has passed. I have endeavoured to make my letter to the plenipotentiaries quite agreeable to your sentiments in England, contained in your Grace's letter upon that subject: I hope and believe it will have a good effect. 1748.

I am now to acquaint your Grace that on Wednesday M. Steinburgh * desired the King's leave to remain at Hanover and return no more to England; upon which the King immediately appointed M. Munchausen the younger to attend him to London. Both the Munchausens came to me this evening to acquaint me with it, to desire my favour, and to give me the strongest assurances that M. Munchausen would act in concert with us in every thing; and he begged I would recommend him to your Grace's favour and protection: I assured him of all the regard and respect that we could show him; and, indeed, I believe he will do very well: he seems a very honest, sensible man. I mentioned the Duke of Richmond the other day, for the first time, to the King, for the embassy at Paris: the King extremely approved it, when the definitive treaty is over. I find Joe Yorke would

* Hanoverian minister to the court of St. James's: he was succeeded by M. Munchausen the younger

1748. be glad either to go before or with the Duke of Richmond, to remain minister at Paris when the embassy is over. I told him I could have no objection; but as he goes to England with the Duke he would have an opportunity of settling it with your Grace, his father, my brother, and the Duke of Richmond. I hope there will be no occasion to send one sooner; for if things go on at Aix, the treaty will be soon, I hope, adjusted and finished there. I cannot yet get the warrant for the justice clerk altered: it was most unlucky that it was signed wrong at first. I beg my compliments to the Duchess of Bedford,

And am, &c. &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Wimple, August 18. 1748.

My Lord,

At the same time that I return your Grace my humble thanks for the honour of your most obliging letter, I must profess myself extremely concerned, in the midst of your various occupations, you should give yourself so much trouble. I did not leave any directions with the secretaries of the Lords Justices to send me any extracts, because I did not know but your Grace might sometimes

think fit to transmit the letters themselves by a messenger to this place; I mean after your Grace should quite have done with them, and they should have been circulated in town to all such persons as they have been used to be communicated to. By this method I should be *au fait* of what had passed when I should happen to be called to London on any occasion of business. But this I submit entirely to your Grace, who can best judge of the convenience of it; and if at any time there should happen to be a scarcity of messengers, it will be the same thing if two or three posts are sent together. I would not fail to peruse and return them by the same messenger. If your Grace sees any objection to this, I shall be extremely obliged to you if you will be pleased to give orders to the secretaries to send me extracts of the material letters by the post, together with copies of the Lords Justices' minutes from time to time.

As to Mr. Mordaunt's proposal relating to the Russians, I entirely agree in opinion with your Grace and the rest of the Lords Justices, and wish it may take effect; though I apprehend a further difficulty may arise against the execution of it on the part of France, who may object that the halting and putting them into quarters upon the nearer frontiers of Poland is not marching them back, according to the terms of our convention with that crown; though for my own part, considering the present state of the negotiations, I much incline that France should remain under a persuasion that

1748. they are not quite out of reach, provided no inconvenience arises from it.

I am very sorry for the obstinacy of Count Kaunitz, or rather of his court, though it is no more than I expected: so long as they adhere to their plan of making a separate treaty for themselves, and not joining in one general treaty, they stop *in ipso limine*, and bar any concert of a project; and this seemed to me a principal objection against that unreserved communication which was proposed to be made to the Imperial minister. I was, indeed, in hopes that they might have more light for their expectations at Hanover than we could see at this distance. I shall be impatient to know what has passed at Aix since M. St. Severin's return to that place.

Permit me to profit of this occasion to profess that high regard and honour which I truly bear your Grace, and my readiness to obey your commands; and to assure you that

I am, &c. &c.

HARDWICKE.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Wimble, August 19. 1748.

My Lord,

I am infinitely obliged to your Grace for the trouble you have been so good as to take in

sending over your servant with the despatches herewith returned, and also for the honour of your letter. 1748.
I have perused and considered them all as well as I can by myself, and have presumed to send your Grace enclosed a paper of short observations, which I thought was better than to give you the interruption of a long letter. Your Grace will best judge whether there is any thing material in them or not. I don't find any mention of Mr. Bentinck, so I presume he was not returned to Aix when these letters came away. I am glad our ministers think M. St. Severin is returned in so good a disposition to conclude; but I fear there are many things in this project that must be pared off. Probably the next letters from Hanover will bring some matters relative to this project. Though I wish to continue here as long as I can, yet whenever your Grace shall think it necessary to summon me to town I will not fail to obey your commands.

I ask your Grace's pardon for keeping your servant till to-morrow morning; but it is now so late in the night, that I thought it would be best for him to go away early in the morning.

I am, &c. &c.

HARDWICKE.

1748.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. BENTINCK TO THE
DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Hague, August 24. 1748. N. 8.

My Lord,

I have the honour to send your Grace a copy of a letter I have writ to H. R. H. the Duke in answer to one I received yesterday from H. R. H., dated Herrnhausen the 18th instant; which letter your Grace will certainly have seen before it was sent to me. The paper Lord Sandwich sent you in his private letter of the 11th was what I had noted down for my own use, and to fix my thoughts, and was not digested into order, nor written to be shown any body but an intimate friend. It was as such I showed it to Lord Sandwich; and that upon his pressing me, and assuring me you would not take it amiss, nor otherwise than I meant, that I yielded and permitted him to send you the foul copy, such as it was. I flatter myself that you will not have taken it ill: I meant it well. And if I could have the pleasure of talking it over with you from point to point, I am sure I could justify every thing in it, though may be not every word; not having had time to weigh every word, and never having designed the paper should go out of my hands. Don't think I shall ever spoil affairs between us out of humour. But, on the other side, pray consider the situation I am in, charged alone with the conduct of the negotiation at Aix, and answerable for every thing: so that I may with

reason require of you some compliance, if you think I can be of use to you; which I shall always do my utmost endeavours for. I will instruct my brother fully, and leave him to justify by word of mouth what I cannot, for want of time, vindicate by letter. I beg you would send me back the courier with your answer as soon as possible, that I may fix my return to Aix; and I will order the courier to make all possible diligence. 1748.

MR. BENTINCK TO THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

Hague, August 24. 1748. N. S.

Sir,

I received yesterday the letter your Royal Highness has honoured me with, in date the 18th instant. I am mightily obliged to you, Sir, for this fresh mark of your confidence; which I hope I shall not forfeit by differing in opinion as to the method of carrying through a point which your Royal Highness has with reason so much at heart—I mean the restitution of all the Netherlands, and of obliging the court of Vienna to come into that necessary measure, for her own interest as well as for that of England and of this republic. I may fail in my judgment, but shall never vary in my principles. I shall be very much mistaken if the court of Vienna does come with a good grace into our system. I heartily wish I may be mistaken; but by what I have seen of the principles of the leading

1748. man of that court I have little reason to think I shall.

— I am sorry to see that your Royal Highness does not think proper that Lord Sandwich should come to the Hague. Nothing can be ever more contrary to my design or intention, than to lend him a hand in any endeavour, or even in the appearance of an endeavour, to find an expedient not to comply with the King's positive instructions. My principal reason for wishing to have him here at present is to concert with him, without loss of time, the execution of what he proposed from Aix, before I set out for the Hague, about easing the court of Vienna in the keeping of the barrier for the future. And I own, that if your Royal Highness could or would take upon yourself to dispense with Lord Sandwich sticking to the letter of his orders on this point, I am of opinion it would have a very good effect, and greatly contribute to the great end we all have at heart—I mean the carrying the court of Vienna along with us. Your Royal Highness may be persuaded that no bad use, nor no use at all, shall be made of his absence or stay here but the avowed one: I dare answer and pawn my honour upon it. I have too great an opinion of your Royal Highness's parts and penetration to undertake to hide any thing from you, which must of course be discovered at last, and would lose my reputation; which I have too much at heart to venture it. I believe your Royal Highness will think this point, relating to the barrier, important enough to deserve the most serious consideration; and that settling

this point, which alone can secure the Netherlands, and more than any other contribute to oblige the court of Vienna in this critical moment to come into our measures, ought not to be put off nor delayed a moment. I therefore beg you, Sir, to consider it, and I shall wait here for your answer, which I hope to receive as soon as possible. I cannot conceal from your Royal Highness that the letter I received yesterday gave me a great deal of concern. 1748.

Here I pass for being too partial to England and to the house of Austria; and if, without any fault of mine, I should have the misfortune of losing your confidence, I should be left quite alone, and could no longer be of any use any where nor to any body. I shall wait with great impatience for your Royal Highness's answer, since I have nothing more at heart than the continuance of the goodness which you hitherto have had for me; which I acknowledge with the greatest gratitude, and which I shall always do my utmost endeavours to deserve. My brother is to go to Hanover; and I hope this journey of his, which was resolved yesterday, will contribute to the carrying the great affair to a happy conclusion, and prevent any appearance of difference of opinion even in the method of going on. For in the principle there neither is nor ever can be any difference.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) W. BENTINCK.

1748. P. S. I write to-day to the Duke of Newcastle, to the same purpose as I have the honour to do to your Royal Highness.

MR. BENTINCK TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

Hague, August 24. 1748. N. 8.

My Lord,

I judge by your silence that you are a little out of humour with me. If it is so, I am very sorry for it; for my affection and personal attachment for you make me very sensible to every thing that comes from you. We never differed in any point of any importance ever since we have had any thing to do together in business; and we have in former times worked on common principles though we had no communication together. It would be very unfortunate that at present any thing could happen to alienate your mind from me, when there can be no other reason but differing in opinion as to the method of obtaining the same end; which end we both equally wish and aim at—I mean the restitution of the Netherlands, and the carrying the House of Austria along with us in the conclusion of the negotiation. I am persuaded that every step taken hitherto is to be justified not only by the orders we have received, but by circumstances we found ourselves every day more and more involved in by the court of Vienna's manifesting her design with rela-

tion to the barrier, and to her reservations about the treaty of Worms. As the great point upon which the greatest stress is laid is the barrier, I do think it absolutely necessary for Lord Sandwich to come to the Hague for a couple of days. As things stand at Aix his absence will occasion no delay, and he can be back again long before Count Kaunitz receives an answer from his court. We can concert here with the Prince of Orange what is to be done to ease the court of Vienna in the bearing the load of the barrier; and by obliging her in that point, at the same time that we persuade her by our arguments and our steadiness, it is likely we shall carry our point. It is to gain time and make a more solid and lasting work that I so much wish to have Lord Sandwich. I beg your Grace would not suspect any hidden or covered design in what I propose. I have always acted fairly with you, and will do so to the end, as long as we have any thing to do together; and I may in justice demand to be believed by you till you have any reason to the contrary. I shall not look upon it as a favour, but as what I am entitled to: so that, if there is no other material objection, I shall beg of your Grace to ask his Majesty's leave for Lord Sandwich to come to the Hague, the sooner the better, for a couple of days only, to accelerate a concert between his Majesty and the republic about the method of settling for the future things, so as to show all possible facility to the court of Vienna in the affair of the barrier. I shall send this letter by a courier,

1748. who will bring me back your Grace's answer here.

My brother will set out for Hanover in a day or two: it was resolved yesterday, and he is getting ready as fast as he can. I hope it will be agreeable to the King, and that he will make my peace with your Grace; for I am resolved, at all events, to cultivate your friendship, and to be well with you. I cannot finish my letter without saying that I foresee that things will go on better than you seem at present to imagine, and that they will end well if proper measures are taken. But I foresee, at the same time, that all will depend upon the court of Vienna. I heartily wish she may, but I fear she will not come with a good grace into our system; and yet she must at last.

I am, &c.

W. BENTINCK.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Wimple, August 25. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I take this opportunity by Blackmore to return your Grace my sincere thanks for the honour of your letter of the 21st from Woburn Abbey, and for the communication of the despatches which came this morning and are herewith returned.

As to the taking off the prohibition of commerce

with Spain, if it is for the interest of our own merchants and trade that it should be done, and they press for it to prevent their being subject to the prosecutions of private informers, which it may be out of the power of the government to stop, that seems to be a strong answer to the objection against our taking that step first, especially as there is so good reason to believe that the court of Spain will forthwith do the like on their part. 1748.

I have read over all the letters, but do not find much new in them. Whatever has been further done we must expect by the next mail, or by his Royal Highness. Considering how fair the wind has been of late, I wonder we hear nothing of him. Might not the Duke fix the time of his setting out according to the expectation they had of an answer from Vienna; the first day for which was (as I observed) Monday last, and the latter Wednesday, which was yesterday? If so, that may account for H. R. H.'s not being yet arrived. Mr. Aldworth has promised to send me word by a messenger as soon as the Duke arrives, and I hold myself in constant readiness to come away when I shall receive that account. In the mean time I thank your Grace for the continuance of your furlough,

And am, &c.

HARDWICKE.

1748.

SIR THOMAS ROBINSON TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Aix, August 29. 1748. N. S.

My Lord,

Your Grace will have seen by my private letter of the 19th instant, N. S., in what manner and for what reasons his Majesty's instructions with respect to the court of Vienna had been executed in part only. By the Earl of Sandwich, and my joint letters since that time, and by what we are sending on this occasion, your Grace will see with what punctuality they have been now fully executed.

Count Kaunitz goes along with us as yet in nothing. Count Chavannes not only goes along with us in every thing, but presses us from time to time successively with so many points, that we must ourselves lag at last for want of strength to keep up with him.

As to France, M. St. Severin has told both the Earl of Sandwich and me, jointly and separately, according as business or accident has occasioned our seeing one another, that the point of the four years for the Assiento once given up, the establishment of Don Philip shall be settled according to the preliminaries; that is to say, in the manner as offered by the court of Vienna in their Latin project: and in spite of the strongest arguments which have been used to show him the unfairness of

extorting an explanation upon the first of those points, which the article cannot bear, and of not entering into explanations upon the second of those points, which the very words of the article carry with them at the first sight, he contents himself upon the first with pretending that if Spain, whose hands, however, he knows France has tied up, (for he let fall to me, that M. Sotto Mayor neither had nor would have any fresh orders upon that head,) agreed to refer it to our respective courts, he, St. Severin, should think himself extremely happy in seeing this difficulty removed: and upon the second point he confines himself to saying that his master must continue the war, rather than suffer so important a point as that of the order of succession, whether in the kingdom of Naples or of Spain, to be controlled or regulated by the court of Turin; and that though the treaties renewed by the preliminaries expressly exclude Spain from having the least possession in Italy, yet France will not specify that condition in the present definitive treaty.

These two points of the Assiento, and of the terms upon which Don Philip is to be established, M. de St. Severin calls the *pivots* of the whole negotiation, and says that the rest will be barely a matter of phrase, which may, and must indeed, he added, be finished in the course of next month; otherwise it will be too late to execute by the end of November, at farthest, the plan of execution which is expected from M. D'Argenson. As to the detail, his hands are plainly tied up till the

1748. arrival of M. du Thiel *, who is to come with his master's last and freshest instructions.

Besides an old acquaintance renewed with M. St. Severin, M. du Thiel has anticipated the renewal of our older acquaintance, by the canal of his nephew, M. Beauchamp; so that our first interviews are not likely to be cooled with the shyness natural to people who are entirely strangers.

It will be upon M. du Thiel's arrival, on the 3d or 4th of next month, that things will come to a close, regular, and, I hope, short negotiation; and by that time, too, Count Kaunitz will have received his first instructions upon the communication of what had passed till M. St. Severin's departure for Compeigne; and within a few days afterwards he will receive subsequent orders upon the present plan, which we communicated to him the day before yesterday, and, above all, upon the alternative which we have laid before him of his mistress recovering the Low Countries in the month of November, or of not having them before the next spring. He will, I am persuaded, have done his utmost; and his first secretary, who is Bartenstein's man of confidence, has assured me that he thinks things will turn out well.

In the mean while, M. du Thiel will, for his own sake, do things well and in order. He will endeavour, if I know him, to outwit those only who shall be attempting to outwit him; and I would flatter myself that he takes this commission upon

* Second plenipotentiary from the Court of Versailles to the Congress at Aix-la-Chapelle.

the same principle that he is known to have acted upon when he had the chief direction of foreign affairs, during the interval between M. Amelot's and M. d'Argenson's ministry, by telling the King, "Sire, si votre Majesté est dans l'intention de ne pas agir de la meilleure foi, il faudra y employer un autre que moi."

1748.

The joint letter is so full, and our zeal in executing and enforcing all his Majesty's instructions has been so much exerted, that, during our hopes of his Majesty's most gracious approbation, I shall only add to these few gleanings upon the whole, that most perfect respect with which

I have, &c.

T. ROBINSON.

P. S. I am honoured with a letter from Mr. Pelham, who acquaints me with his having written to your Grace that whatever are his Majesty's commands with respect to my appointments, they will meet with a ready obedience on his part, as no expense can, he is pleased to say, meet with his approbation more than that, which shall enable me to go through this work with ease to myself, and honour to my country; so that I cannot but flatter myself that your Grace will have sent a regular notice of his Majesty's having been pleased to honour me with the same allowance in full as that of the Earl of Sandwich, and I cannot suppress my hopes that your Grace will have taken a favourable moment to desire the usual allowance of plate.

T. R.

1748.

SIR THOMAS ROBINSON TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

(Most private.)

Aix, August 29. 1748. N. S.

My Lord,

As your Grace will have seen with what punctuality and exactness all his Majesty's late orders have been executed, I cannot conceal from your Grace, nor well remove from the Earl of Sandwich, the sensibility with which his Lordship thinks it has been possible for any one to suppose his Lordship's thought of going to Holland for two or three days could proceed from an unwillingness to execute the said orders; and I should humbly think that the justice which your Grace will do his Lordship, founded upon the event itself, will give his Lordship a pleasure that I only can know, who know his uneasiness. His Majesty's late instructions may do the greatest good, if they have the desired effect at Vienna; they have done no hurt with France, nor can, that I see, though they have not the desired effect, at Vienna. Du Thiel will, my Lord, I hope, reconcile us all. The first great matter is order and form, that he is master of; the second is equity, and as to that he will not, if the design of France is to finish, go too far beyond it, for fear of risking the whole. Chavannes treats St. Severin as one who is too unjust, out of mere ignorance of what is usual and equitable: I humbly think, too, that Du Thiel will be the likeliest man

to have the most credit with Count Kaunitz personally; that is, cutting him short on unnecessary difficulties, and in helping us to engage him to empty roundly and at once the bottom of his sack; for I must still beg to be of opinion that his orders will be to sign with us, and that proving to be the case, I do not know any person that such an event will be more agreeable to than the Earl of Sandwich, nor any body that will have a greater merit from it, considering the affectionate and firm manner at the same time with which his Lordship conducted the several communications to the Austrian minister. Nothing can equal the harmony with which I have the honour and pleasure to live with his Lordship. I hope I have already some share in his Lordship's confidence; and if I can judge of your Grace's and of his Lordship's most private sentiments, you are, independently of the instructions, tending to the same end, which will, in the name of God, be completed by the end of next month.

I have, &c.

T. ROBINSON.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO MR. BENTINCK.

Hanover, August ¹⁹/₃₀. 1748.

Dear Sir,

I must begin with begging pardon for having detained your messenger so long. I was desirous he

1748.

should carry with him every thing that was to go to Vienna and Aix, and I had not finished or been able to despatch the messenger to Vienna till late last night; and as I concluded you would be at the Duke's quarters from the letters I had received from his Royal Highness, and from the King's desire that you should have an interview with the Duke, I thought the delay of the return of your messenger not so material. I must now return you my most sincere thanks for your two kind letters. They were great comfort to me at a time when our late difference in opinion had, I feared, or might create some coolness, where of all places I am desirous to avoid one. I am persuaded we both acted as we thought the best for obtaining the great point which we have both in view; but it would have been impossible for me to have taken the necessary measures for bringing about that view consistently with the King's opinion, the Duke's, and after that, if I may humbly add, my own, had the King receded from the directions he had sent to his minister; and allow me, dear Sir, to say, that those directions appear now to have had no ill consequence, and have alone, in the opinion here, enabled and justified the King in holding that friendly, but strong language, which Mr. Keith is ordered now to hold at Vienna; and from which, I will flatter myself, we may soon have a good effect. What would the court of Vienna have said to us if we had kept from them what now M. St. Severin owns he had fully told to the Duke de Huescar? How-

ever, this affair is now quite over; and every thing will go on with the same harmony, concert, and, I hope, success, that it has hitherto done, if you will be so good as to return to Aix; which I flatter myself you will do, or will have done when you see how earnestly the King desires it. As to Lord Sandwich's coming to the Hague, things are in such activity at Aix since the return of St. Severin, and will be so by the orders our ministers will receive in a day or two, that I do not see that it is possible for him to be spared from Aix, except H. R. H., in consequence of the hint I gave him by the King's order, shall have sent for Lord Sandwich to meet you at Eyndhoven; and that would and must answer all the ends proposed. I find H. R. H. still thinks Lord Sandwich's journey to the Hague unnecessary, and that you might carry any instructions from thence that might enable you and the King's plenipotentiaries at Aix to settle, if possible, with Count Kaunitz the disputes about the barrier; and you will see that, both in the letters to Aix and to Vienna, our ministers are directed to employ their good offices for that purpose. You will see that, in order to facilitate the conclusion of the definitive treaty, and agreeably to your advice, the King has been pleased to depart from his undoubted right relating to the continuance of the Assiento; but his Majesty hopes, that, after such a concession, M. St. Severin will agree to all the other points which are proposed to be altered in the projects, and that the King's ministers will have the assistance of those of

1748. the Republic, and particularly yours, for that purpose. I am persuaded I need not recommend any point to you where you find or think the King is particularly concerned. I know your regard for the King, and inclination and desire to serve and please him. Your absence from Aix has already had this bad effect, that I find our ministers have communicated nothing to yours; which, besides the delay, has obliged us *here* (where we have more business than we can go through) to make copies of every thing for the Greffier. I hope you will approve the orders to Aix: I am sure you will those to Vienna. We are now in possession of such a draught of a definitive treaty, as we can support with both parties, *allies* and *enemies*, or *new friends*; and I hope we shall carry it through, and don't despair of it. I may tell you, in confidence, the King has directed M. Wasner to be spoke to in so strong a manner, that he has despatched a courier of his own to his court upon it: he has since told me that he has plainly told the Empress Queen that, if she did not now concur with the King, his Majesty would be obliged to make a separate alliance with the King of Prussia; for England must have an *ally* if they could not have the Queen: and, besides, that some persons in England, who are not well-wishers to the House of Austria, might possibly, by her behaviour, come into the administration, in the room of those who have now the honour to serve the King, and are known to be true friends and servants to the House

of Austria and the Empress Queen. This he thinks will have its effect; and, after he had perused and considered my letter to Mr. Keith, he owned freely he thought it would do. He extremely approved every part of it, as I hope you will do. You will see it is wrote entirely agreeable to our plan; that is, to do every thing in the most cordial and affectionate manner to procure the Empress Queen's concurrence, to have nothing to reproach ourselves for, and to lay before them the true but melancholy state of our situation at present; and to leave them thoroughly persuaded that the King must and will sign with the other powers without them. I hope, and rather believe, it will have the desired effect; but if it should not, we must think of getting the provisional possession of Flanders. There is no way of being quite safe without it. And I should think we might find out some means of giving France such security for the cessions and restitutions in Italy, as must and ought to satisfy them. And after the King has made M. St. Severin easy upon a point he had so much at heart, as that of the Assiento, and in which, I believe, his own honour was concerned, M. St. Severin should show facility in what so immediately affects the King and the republic, as the restitution of the Low Countries. As I keep no secret from you, I enclose to you a copy of a letter, which I have wrote in my own hand, to Keith to be showed to the Emperor.

As I am persuaded you will approve the sub-

1748. stance of the orders to Keith, I hope you will not be displeased that they were sent away before we could communicate them to the Prince of Orange. That would have been the loss of seven or eight days, when every hour is precious; and as they are (except what relates to the communication) in every point agreeable to the opinion at the Hague, I am sure you would not have had them delayed purely for form's sake. Burmann, I hope, will join in the execution; and, indeed, these orders are little more than a renewal of the former communication, and a repetition, though in a stronger manner, of Sir Thomas Robinson's orders. I may also acquaint you, in confidence, that the last letters from England made it necessary to send these orders to Vienna without one moment's delay. If it is possible to do any thing about the barrier, I should have no doubt of the concurrence of Kaunitz in our definitive treaty. That must be best settled at Aix. You see, in my letter to Vienna, the King has insisted upon every point of the barrier treaty that essentially concerns the Republic. But if the Queen of Hungary could be made easy in other points, or in things that perhaps are now, from the alteration of the state of the towns in Flanders, not so material, it would contribute much to carry our great point; and consider what an end the King and Republic will have made, if the definitive treaty can be signed and the restitutions completed before the winter with the consent of all parties; and by that means the point be obtained which you and

I have so much at heart, viz. the preserving the old system, and thereby enabling the maritime powers (if they please) once more to be serviceable to themselves and to the liberties of Europe. There is at present a good disposition for that purpose in many of the princes of the empire, and the Czarina is ready to enter into any proper measures with the Empress Queen and the maritime powers; but all depends upon our connection with the House of Austria; and that connection must be broke if we do not act in the utmost confidence with them, and if we should be forced at last to sign without them. I am most heartily glad we shall have Charles here. I shall act with him as I have always done with him and you. Things shall be well between us, or I am sure it shall not be my fault. 1748.

You see I write in the same confidence I used to do; my principles and sentiments are the same; and allow me to say, we have unfortunately differed in opinion just at a time when, by our union in measures and sentiments, there seems more probability than ever that we may be able to bring things, both as to the substance and manner, to the conclusion we wish. Should the court of Vienna still refuse, you will see they are to expect no farther application from the King. Every thing will then be open. His Majesty and the States will be at liberty to take such part as they think right for themselves and for the whole; but till the court of Vienna does refuse (which I hope they will not), it

1748. is by no means necessary to determine what that part shall be. But I think we must have Flanders in some shape or other.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, ^{Aug. 21}_{Sept. 1}. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I had yesterday the honour of your Grace's private letter, and I think, or at least I hope I see by it, that you are not under so much apprehension from our present method of proceeding at Aix and Vienna, as some other of my good friends are, and I will believe that my last letters, and especially those your Grace will receive by this messenger from hence, and by the mail from Aix, will have removed all objection to our proceedings, and given a tolerable prospect of our success. I will venture to affirm, if any other method had been pursued, we should not, we could not have been so near it. I send your Grace two letters from Sir T. Robinson which are as promising as possible. I find Sandwich has mistaken a paragraph in the Duke's letter to Bentinck, which I shall set right, though it is certain his Royal Highness did much disap-

prove my Lord Sandwich's conduct, and was extremely against his going to the Hague; but I hope all that is now over; and things seem to be going on with all the harmony, cheerfulness, and I hope success, imaginable; and your Grace knows I am not apt to remain long angry with my friends. 1748.

The King was extremely pleased with your Grace's continued goodness about our Cambridge affair, and ordered me again to assure you of it; he has also given me leave to authorise your Grace to offer Lord Halifax poor Lord Monson's employment: it is the best scheme of all, and I am much obliged to you for the thought; but the King thinks it must be executed by yourself; I beg, therefore, you would be so good as to *make* Halifax take it: he is a child, if he does not. The profit is much the same; it is an employment of business, and useful business, and a good qualification for better and greater things: it has always, and particularly in the last instance, been held by men of great consideration and worth. I know you can do more with Halifax than any body; but if you think it necessary you may make use of my name, for, as a friend and near relation, I sincerely advise him, not only to take it, but to be pleased with it. Your Grace will be so good also, in case Lord Halifax accepts, as to acquaint the Duke of Leeds that the King intends the Justice in Eyre for him. I write by this messenger to the Duke of Leeds to acquaint him with your Grace's goodness and the King's consent, if Lord Halifax changes his employment. I

1748. have forgot to speak to the King about Sir T. Robinson's appointments and plate. I will be sure to let you know by the next opportunity Mr. Cayley's intentions: I can't imagine that he thinks of returning thither. Be so good as to acquaint the Duke with your own goodness about Lord Rochford: I dare say the King will have no objection. I mentioned it to him, and I think I had his consent: the only point will be, but that the King did not speak of to me, his Majesty will then have three lords of the bedchamber, Lord Albermarle, Lord Holderness, and Lord Rochford, not able to officiate, but the rest must attend the closet. I beg my compliments to the Duchess of Bedford.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

P. S. I send your Grace two letters from B., and my answer. Pray send the last letters from Aix, Sir Thomas Robinson's, and my letters to Keith, as soon as you can, to my Lord Chancellor.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.1748.

(Private.)

London, September 2. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am honoured with your Grace's private letter of ^{Aug. 21}_{Sept. 1}, with its several enclosures, and am glad to find your Grace has so good an opinion of the disposition of the court of France for bringing matters to a speedy conclusion, by the accounts you have received from Sir Thomas Robinson, and by the good opinion he has conceived from that court's appointing M. du Thiel as their second plenipotentiary at the congress. I am likewise glad to find, by M. Bentinck's letters to your Grace and your answer to him, that all coolness between you two is entirely over, and that he is determined to return to Aix. I hope the matter in dispute between you, I mean the communication to Comte Kaunitz, will have no bad consequence. With regard to St. Severin, we plainly see it has not; but with regard to the court of Vienna, we must wait for the return of Kaunitz's courier before we can form a judgment what effect it may have had there. I must own my fears that the putting papers which contain such infinite matter, and of such various sorts, such as the project of St. Severin, *contre-projet* of Sandwich and Bentinck, and the *précis* of the conversation which passed betwixt them, into the hands of Bartenstein, instead of obtaining us a categorical

1748. answer from thence, seems more likely to produce reams of paper full of his observations, which can tend to nothing but obstructing the negotiation. However, as your Grace has conceived hopes that the court of Vienna will take in such good part the communication made by our plenipotentiaries to her minister, and that the representations Mr. Keith is directed to make at Vienna will have the desired effect, the Lords with whom I was directed to consult upon the very important question in your Grace's letter of Aug. ¹⁷/₂₈ have judged proper to defer coming to any formal opinion thereupon, till it shall be known by the return of Kaunitz's courier, whether there will be any necessity of coming to a determination upon this question or not. By all I can gather of the private opinion of the Lords, (in which, I must own, I entirely concur with them,) there seems at present to be so absolute an impossibility of carrying on the war, and so immediate a necessity of concluding with France before the winter, that I think, when this question comes to be formally discussed, there can be no difference of opinion amongst us. I shall, by to-morrow night's post, according to his Majesty's orders, write to Lord Halifax, who, I am informed, is now at Lumley Castle; and as soon as I receive his answer, I will not fail to inform your Grace of it; and in case he should accept it, I will not omit signifying to the Duke of Leeds his Majesty's gracious intentions towards him. I mentioned to H. R. H. yesterday what your Grace

desired me to do about Lord Rochford; and I 1748.
 believe if you would get his Majesty's orders for
 Mr. Keene to go directly to Madrid (which I think
 would be highly proper at present), you might
 then take his Majesty's final orders about Lord
 Rochford's going to Lisbon. I must beg you to
 send me word as soon as possible whether Mr.
 Cayley has any thoughts of returning to Cadiz, as
 it is high time now the prohibition of commerce
 with Spain is taken off, to think of sending consuls
 to the several ports in that country.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
 NEWCASTLE.

(Separate.)

Whitehall, September 2. 1748.

My Lord,

I have just time to acknowledge the receipt
 of your Grace's despatches to me of the ^{28. Aug.}
^{Sept. 8.}
 with their several enclosures, which arrived here
 late this evening.

I have communicated the contents of them to
 the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham; but as they arrived
 so late, it has been impossible to consider them so
 fully as the material business contained in them
 requires they should be.

1748. I have only at present to suggest to your Grace as our joint opinion, which we would humbly submit to his Majesty, that, as we are directed by your Grace's despatch of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th of August, as also by the despatch which is hereby acknowledged, to take the several questions mentioned in those letters into our most serious consideration, with a liberty of consulting with such other of his Majesty's servants as we shall think proper, in consideration of the importance of these questions, on which the fate of the present negotiations at Aix seems greatly to depend; it may be most advisable to consult such of the Lords' Justices as shall be in or near London, as we are very desirous of having all possible assistance in the forming an opinion to be laid before his Majesty upon an affair of so great and national consequence, and therefore we shall humbly hope to receive his Majesty's permission for that purpose.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

(Private.)

London, September 2. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am much obliged to you for the letter I received by the last mail from you, and do entirely

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

enter into your way of thinking of avoiding to give by any manner of means the least pretence for jealousy to any persons on your side the water, and therefore would by no means have you, by too frequent a private correspondence with me, run any risk of making yourself or other people uneasy. I think as Bentinck has consented to return back to Aix, and has wrote two very proper letters to Hanover (both of which I have seen), all uneasiness of that kind will subside, and every thing go on with harmony and good humour. 1748.

As for your coming to England before every thing is finished at Aix, I fairly own to you, I think it highly improper, and I am sorry to find you have any suspicions of not being able to conclude before the winter comes on. If the court of Vienna should still continue obstinate, I am clearly of opinion, and so I believe are all his Majesty's servants in England, and I may venture to say the whole sensible part of the nation, that some expedient must be found out in order to conclude without her; and though it should be impossible to get the provisional possession of the Low Countries from France, yet considering the present situation of this country, and our absolute inability, after the steps that have been taken, to begin afresh the war, that a definitive treaty with France must be concluded upon the best terms they will be pleased to give us. I need not tell you that I now write to you not as a minister, but as from one friend to another, and to inform you what the opinion of

1748. people at home is. I entirely agree with you in thinking that it cannot be yet determined whether the communication to Kaunitz will have a bad effect or not—that will depend on the way the court of Vienna receives it; and if instead of a categorical answer, we have a right to expect from her, we should have reams of paper full of M. Bartenstein's reasonings, we shall then have reason to repent our having communicated so much to her. However, if we can but bring ourselves to determine (supposing the answer from Vienna should not be so favourable, as it is imagined it will be, at Hanover,) to go on without her, leaving her a limited time to come in; I see in that case no great harm in what has been done, especially as St. Severin has taken no umbrage at it, as it was feared he would do. I have been writing these many hours and can scarce hold a pen, so (as I have given you my political creed) will conclude with assuring you that

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD HALIFAX.

1748.

London, September 3. 1748.

My dear Lord,

The Duke of Newcastle having some time ago wrote to me and Mr. Pelham on the vacancy occasioned in the Board of Trade by the death of Lord Monson, and having desired us to suggest a proper person to succeed him in that post, and at the same time expressing his desire that some means might be found out for bringing his brother-in-law the Duke of Leeds into some honourable employment in his Majesty's service, which did not require much attendance or application, I took the liberty (though I had not had an opportunity of knowing your sentiments upon it) to mention your Lordship to Mr. Pelham as one whom I thought, on account of your application to and abilities in business, the properest person to be put at the head of a board which has, under its care and inspection, business of the highest national concern, and which has always had at its head (and more particularly in the last instance) persons of great consideration and worth. There were two other reasons which induced me to take the liberty (though not commissioned by your Lordship) to mention you as the properest person I could think of for this employment;—the one was, that I look upon it as a post of business, and useful business, and a good qualification for better and greater things; and the other, (which, I own, has a little the air of

1748. selfishness,) was my desire to have a person of your Lordship's weight and consequence, and for whom I have so true a regard, at the head of a board with which, in my present situation, as Secretary of State for the southern department, I must have so close and frequent a correspondence. I had the satisfaction to find that Mr. Pelham agreed entirely in sentiments with me in relation to the whole affair; and he desired me to write to the Duke of Newcastle about it, which I did on the 11th of last month, and received his Grace's answer last Saturday, with the King's entire approbation of it, in case it shall be agreeable to your Lordship. I am now authorised by his Majesty's commands to offer this employment to your Lordship, which, if you think proper to accept of, the King designs the Chief Justice in Eyre for the Duke of Leeds. The Duke of Newcastle gives me leave to make use of his name to your Lordship on this subject, and makes use of this expression, *As a friend and near relation, I sincerely advise him not only to take it, but to be pleased with it.* Mr. Pelham informs me that the salary to the first Lord of Trade is the same as to all the rest, viz. 1000*l.* a year; but that the first Lord has always been paid by him 500*l.* a year additional. He is willing either to continue it on this footing, or to make 500*l.* addition to the salary, whichever you shall choose: I will trouble your Lordship no longer, but to assure you that in what I have done I have done for the best, and as thinking it would be agreeable to you: I do sin-

cerely wish it may, as I am convinced the thing 1748.
 proposed is both honourable and advantageous. I
 must beg the favour of an answer from your Lord-
 ship as soon as you conveniently can, as I must
 inform the Duke of Newcastle, as also the Duke of
 Leeds, of the result of your determination.

I am, &c. &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Aix, September 4. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I am ashamed to think how long I have
 been without troubling your Grace with a letter,
 and should be excessively unhappy if I imagined
 you could ever suspect my silence to be owing to
 any want of attention to your Grace, or to a for-
 getfulness of the many marks of friendship which
 you have so constantly shown me ever since I have
 had the happiness of being known to you. I will
 fairly own to your Grace (from whom it would be
 the utmost ingratitude to conceal any thing) that I
 have been the more sparing of my correspondence
 with many of my friends in England, in order to
 give as little grounds of jealousy as possible, to
 some on this side of the water, which I thought
 from two or three incidents was beginning to take

1748. root. I am not absolutely convinced that my caution in that respect has had all its desired effect, but as I shall most strictly keep to my resolution of not giving any body I am connected with the least reason to complain of me with justice, I am much less uneasy at any consequences of their suspicions, since I know them to be without foundation. I heartily wish my friends had thought it proper for me to come to England soon after the conclusion of the preliminaries. To be sure, nothing could be more plain than that my interest, and perhaps my safety, required if possible that I should leave things where I then had fixed them, and I am as fully convinced that it would have been advantageous to the negotiation to have had it finished by any other than me; for if it is necessary to the success as it is now judged to be, to act in perfect concert in every thing with the court of Vienna, to be sure no one could be more improper to carry on the business upon that foot than me, who they knew had exceeded my instructions in order to conclude the preliminaries without them, and had in great measure carried that point by keeping Count Kaunitz in utter ignorance of what was going on: this I can never expect will be easily forgiven at Vienna; and as I very soon foresaw that it would be thought necessary immediately to renew our connection with that court, I sincerely wished that it would have appeared advisable to remove one material object of their discontent, which at that time might have been done without much difficulty.

I should be concerned if I imagined your Grace was likely to judge from what I now say that I think things in a bad way here at present: I can safely say that I am rather of a contrary opinion; and, according to my judgment, it is probable we shall bring matters to a conclusion. Whatever method affairs are put into, I shall always endeavour to carry them on upon that principle, to the best of my ability, and I have by no means vanity enough to pretend that it becomes me to think of directing; it is my business to execute, and in that capacity I shall endeavour to go on and give as little cause of complaint as I possibly can. 1748.

The communication of all that has passed to Count Kaunitz has had no ill effect with the French minister, and I wrote my opinion to the Duke of Newcastle before the communication was made, that I did not apprehend any inconvenience from it in that quarter. I shall be very happy to find, when Count Kaunitz has had an answer from his court, that it does not increase our difficulties on that side, and then I think it will be proved that the measure has been a prudent one. Bentinck was very warm in his opinion that this communication would ruin our affairs with St. Severin; but he carried that point too far: for though it was understood between us at first, that it would be better to keep the negotiation as much as possible in our own hands till we were agreed among ourselves upon the principal points, yet that was merely a prudential consideration; and as we were engaged

1748. to nothing whatever, no one could complain if either party thought proper to follow another method. I own I much doubted whether Bentinck would enter any more into our measures, or even return hither if that matter was decided against his opinion; however, that is all at an end, and I expect him back every day, and I hope in the same good disposition which he has hitherto manifested upon all occasions.

I imagine your Grace will be impatient to hear how affairs stand after Du Thiel's arrival; indeed I think from his manner of setting out we shall be able to form a judgment whether we shall finish or not before the winter, and if that happens there is very little time to be lost, of which no one seems more sensible than St. Severin himself.

I really believe I shall go on very well with Sir Thomas Robinson: he seems a very reasonable honest man, and I should not imagine would give me any cause to complain of the choice of my colleague; but I still hope that if things should draw on to any great length, his nomination will give me a means of being absent from hence some part of the winter; for I shall much fear that if our business is not finished soon, and before the armies begin to take measures for winter quarters, it will take up several months before we shall be able to sign the definitive treaty. St. Severin says we may be ready on all sides in a fortnight. I dare say your Grace will think me very sincere when I add that there is no person whatever that wishes

more heartily than I do that he may make his words good. 1748.

The beginning of this letter will show your Grace why I beg of you not to mention my having wrote this to you. I cannot, notwithstanding the caution it may be necessary for me to use in my present situation, prevail on myself any longer to neglect expressing my regard and attachment to your Grace; and yet, as I mean to show that any suspicion or jealousy of me is ill founded, it is necessary to avoid giving the most distant reason for its continuance. I beg your Grace to be assured that nothing can exceed the truth with which

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

P.S. Your Grace must observe that I write this letter absolutely as a private man, to unburden my heart to you; but I will trouble you now and then with a private letter upon business, when there is any thing worth your notice, in a style that if you should think necessary to show it, would not give any cause of complaint, and if I have any thing private I will mention it in a letter apart.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

London, September 6. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I cannot omit the opportunity of writing to your Lordship, by the courier I now send you with the ratification to be exchanged with M. Sotto Mayor, to thank you for and acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, N. S. Though I am glad to find M. Bentinck's absence from Aix is not owing to any ill humour still remaining on account of the late communication to Count Kaunitz, yet I cannot but pity him in the present situation he is now at Amsterdam, as all the accounts we have received by the last mail from that city seem to represent things in the utmost confusion there. Though M. Kaunitz's courier is not yet returned, yet I fear, by the accounts I hear from Hanover (at which place two couriers are arrived from Vienna to M. Wasner), the ample communication made to that court may, instead of removing difficulties, greatly increase them; however, I think we may, by the answer that is hourly expected from thence, form a judgment whether that court will come into any measures with us, or whether we must at last be obliged to conclude without her. If that should unfortunately be the case, you must find some way or other to obtain for us, jointly

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

with Holland, the provisional possession of some part of the Low Countries. 1748.

As the King is just set out for the Gore, and I don't expect any answer from Hanover to my last despatch under ten days or a fortnight, and as I see some appearance of leisure for a short time, I intend getting ten days' holydays at Woburn, being the first I have had this year, not having been absent from this town for five days together since his Majesty's departure from England.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD HALIFAX TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Lumley Castle, September 7. 1748.

My dear Lord,

The great distance I am from London did not suffer me to receive your Grace's letter sooner than yesterday. I take the earliest opportunity of returning my thanks for it, and of assuring your Grace that nothing could have given me a more sensible satisfaction than the favourable sentiments you are so good as to entertain of me, and the kind manner in which you make me an offer of the seat at the Board of Trade, lately become vacant by the death of Lord Monson.

The two reasons your Grace is so obliging to give for having recommended me to this employ-

1748. ment are the only ones that are an inducement to me to accept it;—the one, that it is an introduction to business, which I would by no means be understood to decline, and a good qualification for further steps in it; the other reason you give, my Lord, for thinking of me upon this occasion, viz. that your situation of Secretary of State of the southern department makes it necessary to have a close and frequent correspondence with the head of the Board of Trade, does me much honour and has great weight in determining me to accept an employment which, by the nature of it, is likely to furnish me with opportunities of cultivating and improving my friendship with your Grace.

As to what your Grace says with regard to the salary of the first Lord of Trade, I can only say I leave that matter entirely to your Grace and Mr. Pelham. The salary of the post I now enjoy is (subject to the usual deduction) between sixteen and seventeen hundred pounds a year.

In about ten days I shall be returned from my northern journey, and shall afterwards take the earliest opportunity of paying my respects to your Grace. In the mean time I beg leave to assure you that

I am, &c.

DUNK HALIFAX.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

(Private.)

Aix, September 8. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

As it is not impossible that Count Bentinck's absence may give your Grace reason to apprehend that he is still uneasy at the situation of things here, and undetermined whether he shall return or not, I thought it would not be wrong to inform your Grace that he is at present entirely pacified, and that he writes me word that, as soon as ever the troubles at Amsterdam are appeased, he shall come back instructed, as before, to act in perfect concert with us. In the mean time, I hope things will not be in any danger of suffering by his absence; for though there is no doing business with the other Dutch ministers, yet I am so well apprised of Bentinck's sentiments upon the several points in question, that I can negotiate for him with St. Severin without any danger of not being supported.

Du Thiel arrived here the 5th, and both he and St. Severin assure us they mean to finish immediately. The giving up the affair of the Assiento ought, and I believe will, clear away many difficulties; and I really, for my own part, don't apprehend any that are likely to stop us. St. Severin told me last night that he had just received a courier that gave him more hopes than ever that we should have done our whole business before the end of October: that M. Puisieux had talked the

1748. — proper language to the Duke de Huescar, and had plainly told him that, if his court, after what had been done for them, would not be ready to conclude, they should be obliged to finish without them. He says he has been at work with Du Thiel for these three days past in forming a plan in answer to our last project, which he will show us in a day or two more, before he despatches it to his court for their final instructions; and he does not at present foresee any more obstacles to our conclusion.

Till Count Kaunitz's courier returns, and till M. St. Severin gives us his formal answer, we shall have no subject for a public despatch; yet, as there is a Dutch messenger ready to set out for the Hague, I would not omit that opportunity of writing these two or three lines to your Grace, just to inform you how things stand here, and, at the same time, to assure you of the unfeigned truth with which

I am, &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berlin, September 13. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

Your Grace's most kind letter of August 18th I have received. As I know the multiplicity of affairs you must necessarily have upon your hands, I should not have been at all surprised if you

had not wrote to me, which I did not and do not expect; at the same time, I must confess your last letter gave me great consolation. Assurances that come from your Grace of your friendship to your humble servant are substantial comforts, because I know both the one and the other may be relied upon; and, provided one is not disappointed in men, I think there are few other disappointments worth troubling one's head much about. I own I was a little vexed at first, but I hate whining; and as I have the satisfaction of knowing I had your Grace on my side, that is a degree of success which will very well stand me in stead of the whole: so adieu to the subject. I have received a packet of vocal ammunition to be employed in the cause of England against France, for which I beg the sender will accept my most humble thanks, and all praise due to a good patriot. The enemy, indeed, had flown the pit before this reinforcement arrived; but I am very much afraid his cause will revive in his absence, and perhaps take deeper root in this soil (which is extremely favourable to French weeds) than all his cultivation was able to make it do. Things in general here have a very bad aspect; and to give your Grace one instance of the disposition here, which I look upon more as a symptom than the real distemper, I am told that orders are going or gone to England to all Prussians who have prize causes depending there to quit their claims, protest against the capture and the jurisdiction, and to return home immediately.

1748.

1748. The King of Prussia will appoint a commission to examine into and to repair the several losses out of his own pocket; and the whole proceeding of our privateers will be treated as piratical and unjust. I can't say but in some instances it deserves to be so considered; however, matters would not have gone this length, if the pensioners of France at this court had not inflamed the merchants, and treated the subject in a manner which might break all measures between the two courts. For, be the acts ever so piratical in themselves, they know it is not in our power to prevent them; and that piracy is an evil as naturally consequent upon the breaking up of a sea-war, as robbing on the highway is upon the disbanding of armies. These considerations, the general bad prospects I see here, and more especially the kind invitations I have received from your Grace and Mr. Pelham to return home, make me very desirous to quit Berlin as soon as may be consistent with his Majesty's service; and I have accordingly wrote to the Duke of Newcastle upon the subject.

Pray what is become of the Lord Anson? I have wrote him several letters, and cannot so much as learn that he is in being; and I own I should be extremely sorry if he was not. Has matrimony so dried up his standish, as not to have left him one drop of ink to write to a friend with? Pray be so good as to exhort him to write only a line or two, which will content me.

I am, &c.

H. LEGGE.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. VICE CHANCELLOR
PARRIS.

Woburn Abbey, September 10. 1748.

Sir,

I am this evening favoured with your letter of yesterday's date, by a messenger sent on purpose from London. I find by it that the report, which prevailed in London before I left it, of his Grace the Duke of Somerset's death, is now confirmed and believed at Cambridge. I must own myself much obliged to you, Sir, for your desire of receiving from me directions in regard to your conduct on this event, and for the expressions you make use of with regard to the Duke of Newcastle. In pursuance of this your desire, I must inform you that his Majesty doth still continue in the same sentiments, with regard to the election of a chancellor of the University of Cambridge, as he did last year, when he ordered his servants to acquaint the late Vice-chancellor, Mr. Castel, with his pleasure on that subject, in order to its being communicated to the members of the University. I am glad of this opportunity of assuring you that

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

(Private.)

Woburn Abbey, September 11. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I would not have troubled you with a letter from this place, but that I think the impertinent and foolish aspersions thrown out against you and M. Bentinck in the court of Vienna's answer has given you some uneasiness. I think I may venture, for your comfort, to assure you that this will make no ill impression on any of your friends here, nor, I believe, on any one else, as I think the court of Vienna is not looked on here now with that adoration it was formerly. I have been writing this whole day in preparing my despatches for Tuesday night's post, and, as I have no *commis* or clerk here with me to assist me, I can hardly hold my pen in my hand; which I should not have taken up to trouble you with this scrawl, only I feared, by your letter, this vivacity of the Austrian ministers, towards you and Bentinck, had given you more disquiet than it deserved, as I think this peevish behaviour of theirs may hurt themselves, but cannot possibly affect you.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

* From Lord Sandwich's collection.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

Wimble, September 13. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I return your Grace my sincere thanks for the honour of your letter by Cleverley the messenger, and the communication of the letters which came by the last mail. I find they continue at Hanover in the same sentiments as to the appearances of the good disposition of the Court of Vienna ; but surely the behaviour of Count Kaunitz at Aix is by no means correspondent to that opinion, and I wish they don't put too favourable a construction on M. Bartenstein's words. M. du Thiel's professions have as good an aspect as possible for concluding; but are there not some symptoms of a certain management or understanding between France and the Court of Vienna, by his omitting in his draught the clause for invalidating the reserves and protestations made by that Court in their declarations preceding their accession, and their subsequent act of ratification, and also by Du Thiel's talking of *leaving the King of Sardinia to accede*? If the Empress Queen of Hungary would finally refuse such an invalidating clause, she would equally refuse to agree to the words *lesquelles cessions sont confirmées irrévocablement*, for those words will equally abrogate her right *in petitorio*. It would be very unlucky indeed, if by trimming between our two allies we should displease both, and be obliged to sign without

1748. — either. And if the Sardinian minister should declare himself ready to sign with us, how can we, upon a nicety of reciprocation, exclude him, and drive him to take the part of a subsequent accession? But I don't pretend to be master of points of this nature.

I am very glad your Grace is satisfied with the Vice-Chancellor's answer. The part your Grace has taken in support of the King's authority there is very honourable, and, at the same time, very obliging to the Duke of Newcastle, of which I am sure he is very sensible. I have heard nothing further about the Duke of Somerset, but was informed by one who came from Cambridge to-day that every thing is very quiet there.

I am, &c.

HARDWICKE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Aix, September 13. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

These despatches may probably bring your Grace the first account of the answer from the Court of Vienna. I wish it had been more satisfactory upon the points of business, and less personal to me. However, as I dare say my friends will not suffer any ill impression with regard to

me to take place in consequence of those false representations, I have avoided entering into any farther discussion upon that subject than what I thought was absolutely necessary in support of my own reputation; and if M. Kaunitz, as I have reason to imagine, was the person that wrote that information to his court, he must be of a very passive disposition to have allowed me to say all I did with regard to the author of that false intelligence, whoever he was. 1748.

However, this is all at an end; and provided we can get through at any rate, I am very indifferent what is unjustly laid to my charge, because I am convinced my friends will never suffer it to operate with any effect against me. The answer from Vienna is certainly not a pleasing one; but still it is to be hoped that when they see we are near concluding, and are agreed upon our conditions with France, they will out of necessity come into our measures; and those who know that court better than I do, know that it is their constant method to stick out to the last moment, which, it is to be hoped, will account for their present conduct.

A few days more will probably give us a pretty close insight into the intentions of France; and then, and not sooner, you will have the whole before you, and be able to take your final resolution. However, I fear you have but little choice; and if the Court of Vienna refuses to co-operate with us, and France refuses to give into either of the two expedients proposed by your Grace in your letter to

1748. the Duke of Newcastle of the 29th of July, our situation will be very difficult, and any measure we may follow be attended with uncertainty and danger.

I thought it necessary just to trouble your Grace with these few words to accompany a public paper in which my character is so openly attacked. I dare say that, exclusive of your Grace's constant friendship and partiality to me, your regard for truth and justice will incline you to consider my situation, and not suffer you to encourage such a method of proceeding: indeed, since the conclusion of the preliminaries, I never expected any better treatment both from Vienna and Turin; however, it is not what they can say, but the impression it makes in England, that will give me any real uneasiness.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Wimble, September 12. 1748, $\frac{1}{2}$ past eight.

My dear Lord,

Yesterday, about two in the afternoon, I received by Blackmore the messenger the honour of your Grace's letter of the 10th instant, together with the despatches that accompanied it. After having carefully perused them all, I heartily wish

I could see those marks of a good disposition in the Court of Vienna, and those hopeful appearances, which our friends at Hanover have found out. M. Bartenstein's remarks are just what I expected, — voluminous, and full of reproaches; but I don't quite understand what he and Count Uhlefeld both mean by the variations between the copy of our new *projet* shown at Vienna, and that delivered by our plenipotentiaries to Count Kaunitz at Aix. I am glad, however, that M. St. Severin and Du Thiel talk of concluding in a fortnight or three weeks from the date of those letters; though I own I am inclined to think with Count Kaunitz that M. du Thiel's proposition, to have so many separate treaties exactly of the same tenor, seems to be the most extraordinary of all, unless he means only that the one treaty should recite the other.

I am extremely obliged to your Grace for your kind communication of the Vice-Chancellor's letter, which is of a particular turn. Nothing could possibly be more prudent or more proper than your Grace's answer, which I immediately closed, and sent the messenger forward with it to Cambridge. He returned from thence so late last night, that it was impossible for him to go from hence till this morning; and as he is charged with a letter from the Vice-Chancellor to your Grace, I do myself the honour to add this to it. The packets are directed to the office, which Blackmore tells me was your Grace's intention. I agree with your Grace in doubting whether, notwithstanding all we have

1748. — heard, the Duke of Somerset be yet dead; for my son (who begs your Grace would accept his best compliments) received a letter by yesterday's post, from a gentleman who dined with Dr. Mead on Saturday, which has the following paragraph:—
“ The Duke of Somerset, who was thought to be dead on Sunday, revived unexpectedly, and was living on Wednesday, in the same weak condition in which he was before that fit. This I had from Dr. Mead and his brother at dinner to-day.” And the Archbishop writes me word that one of his chaplains had a letter from the Duke of Somerset's chaplain, which mentions his being alive on Thursday last.

I am, &c. &c.

HARDWICKE.

ADMIRAL BYNG TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Boyn, off Gibraltar, September 14. 1748.

My Lord,

I take this opportunity by Captain Hervey, who is going to Lisbon in his way to England, and who has my directions to forward this by the first packet that sails from thence, if any should go before him, to acquaint your Grace that I am got thus far down the Straits in my way home; but am obliged by the orders I have received from the Admiralty to touch at Gibraltar, to take in as much

provisions and stores from those magazines as the fleet can well carry home, leaving a sufficient quantity of all species to serve the squadron left under the command of Rear-Admiral Forbes. This calling at Gibraltar will retard my voyage some time, especially if a westerly wind should set in before I sail from thence; but if the wind continues easterly, as it is at present, until I get through the Straits' mouth, I make no doubt but I shall be in England before the end of October, when I hope to have the honour of kissing your Grace's hands, and to return you personally my sincere thanks for all the favours you have been pleased to show me; and the little fortune I have been able to pick up since having the command of his Majesty's fleet in these seas I shall ever gratefully attribute to your Grace: being thoroughly persuaded that honour done me is wholly owing to your great kindness for me: I must beg leave to assure your Grace that

I am, &c.

J. BYNG.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

September 15. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I had the honour of your Grace's letter yesterday with the several enclosures, which I now return to your Grace according to your commands.

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1748. I am entirely of your opinion, both with regard to the disposition of France and the extraordinary construction our friends at Hanover give to the last letters received from Vienna. I heartily wish they may have better grounds for their candid opinion of that court than any they have transmitted hither, but I very much doubt it. I am sorry to see so unpromising a disposition in the Court of Spain as appears by M. Ensenada's* letter to Wall. Your Grace could not give a properer answer by letter than you have done. This I think General Wall might be told, that after the assurances given to your Grace by that gentleman, that, upon the return of his courier, an order would come for the free entrance of any goods from England into the Spanish ports, as we by our proclamation have already allowed the Spaniards here, it is pretty extraordinary that such a step should be taken by his court as to refuse our ships pratique in their ports. I doubt the delay of sending Mr. Keene, and the little notice which has been taken of their minister at Aix for some time, may have stirred the pride of the Spaniards so as to commit this extraordinary act. By Lord Halifax's letter he certainly intends to accept the offer your Grace has made him; but I think it looks as if he had some hopes of settling a salary more agreeable to his Lordship, for he fairly tells you that the salary of his present office is between sixteen and seven-

* Spanish minister.

teen hundred pounds a year, which is two hundred more than that of the First Lord of Trade. I should therefore be of opinion that it would be best for your Grace to stay till Lord Halifax's return to London, which will be now in a few days, before you write any thing to the Duke of Leeds; but I submit that, as well as every thing else, to your Grace's better judgment. Lord Gower came here on Monday evening; so that we shall now have the form of a regency this day, though I believe there is very little for us to do. 1748.

I am, &c.

H. PELHAM.

P. S. Since I had finished my letter the Duke of Leeds has been with me to show me a letter he had received from Lord Halifax, in which he acquaints his Grace with the whole affair, and recommends his friend Dr. Salisbury to him. By this I conclude Halifax accepts. I told the Duke what I had wrote to your Grace, and that he would certainly have heard from you if I had not prevented it. The Duke of Leeds is in exceeding good humour, very much pleased with what is designed for him, and submits as to time and manner to whatever shall be thought proper.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH AND
SIR THOMAS ROBINSON.

Woburn Abbey, September 16. 1748.

My Lord, and Sir,

I having obtained the Lords Justices' leave of absence from London for a few days on my own private affairs, I am to acknowledge from this place the receipt of your Excellencies' letter of the $\frac{7}{18}$ th instant, enclosing to me your despatch to the Duke of Newcastle of the $\frac{5}{18}$ th.

I am now to acquaint your Excellencies, in order to enable you to inform the French plenipotentiaries in answer to M. de Maurepas' letter, that his Majesty has appointed Thomas Orby Hunter and Charles Allix, Esquires, his commissioners to treat with those of France at St. Malo's upon the several points referred to them; and Mr. Hunter is already set out for Holland in order to liquidate accounts depending between his Majesty and the States-General, as likewise between his Majesty and some foreign princes, after which he will be ready to set out for St. Malo's, to undertake jointly with Mr. Allix the commission with which they are charged. I hope to be able to send away Mr. Allix in a very short time; but as unfortunately there has been an error in the commission by misnaming Mr. Allix, I am still in doubt whether that can be set right without having a new commission passed the great seal. However, I can authorise your Excellencies to promise the French plenipotentiaries that no time shall

be lost in sending over Mr. Allix to St. Malo's, who will be ready, though Mr. Hunter should not be able to arrive so soon, to enter immediately upon affairs relating to the prisoners of war, of which, on account of his having been long in the commission for sick and wounded, &c., he is entirely informed. 1748.

As I have not been able to attend the Lords Justices this week, I cannot inform your Excellencies what answer it may be thought proper to give to that part of the Comte de Maurepas' paper which relates to the engagement between the French frigate and the Garland privateer; but I cannot help suggesting it as my own opinion, that as it doth appear the captain of the Garland did in no shape act in contradiction to his Majesty's orders signified by his royal proclamation before he left England, I cannot see that any punishment can be inflicted upon him. However, as in all probability their Excellencies' secretaries will inform you of their determination, I shall detain you no longer than to assure you that

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

1748.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Powis House, September 23. 1748.

My dear Lord,

The treaty of Breda of 1667, between the crowns of England and France, is that treaty which was made under the mediation of Sweden, at the end of the first Dutch war in the reign of king Charles II. I have read it over, and find nothing in it of continuances, or which may be material; except that by this treaty France restores to England part of the island of St. Christopher's, and England restores to France Acadie in North America. But all these matters having received a new regulation and settlement by the treaty of Utrecht, whereby the whole of St. Christopher's and Acadie, or Nova Scotia, are restored to Great Britain, which treaty of Utrecht is renewed and confirmed by the present project, it was certainly improper to renew the treaty of Breda; and I presume that was the reason of omitting the mention of it.

I am, &c.

HARDWICKE.

P. S. Your Grace will be so good as to remember the papers I desired last night.

1748.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Göhrde, September ¹⁷/₂₆ 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am to return your Grace my thanks for the honour of your private, and private and separate, letters of the 2d instant by Dick the messenger, both which I have laid before the King.

In the great uncertainty we are at present, by the unaccountable delay of Du Thiel's project, I shall forbear saying any thing upon the state of our negotiations at Aix: a few days must necessarily clear up matters, and enable us to form some judgment as to what we are to expect.

I am in hopes the next messenger from England will bring an account of my Lord Halifax's having accepted the offer his Majesty has been pleased to make him; and I am much obliged to your Grace for your intention of signifying to the Duke of Leeds, in that case, his Majesty's gracious intention towards him.

I am very glad to find, by a letter that I received this day from Mr. Keene, that he has consented in so handsome a manner to go to Madrid. I shall not fail to receive his Majesty's orders upon that head, as also upon my Lord Rochford's going to Lisbon.

I shall lay before the King your Grace's request with regard to the living of Barton in Bedfordshire,

1748. — when it shall become vacant, and am persuaded that his Majesty will be glad to have that opportunity of showing his regard for your recommendation.

I should be very ready to concur with your Grace in showing all possible regard to my Lord Chesterfield's recommendation in favour of Mr. Grevenkop (who, I am persuaded, is a man of merit); but as he has already a pension from his Majesty of 200*l.* a year upon the Irish establishment, and as Mr. Wallace, one of the clerks in my office, is perfectly well qualified to succeed the late Mr. Zolman as translating German clerk, and is in other respects a very useful man, your Grace will not, I hope, disapprove my recommending him to the King for it. Mr. Wallace is known to my Lord Chesterfield, and was brought into the office by his Lordship; and I am persuaded my Lord Chesterfield will think it right that some provision should be made for him.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Aix-la-Chapelle, September 26. 1748. N.S.

My dear Lord,

I cannot let the messenger go off with his important despatches without making use of the

opportunity to return you thanks for your two private letters of the 2d and 6th, O.S. I think we may now with reason begin to hope that things are drawing to a conclusion, as Kaunitz's countenance is much cleared up since the communication of the French project, and as there is reason to hope, from some things that have dropped from him, that now they see they can get the immediate possession of the Low Countries, we shall not meet with any material difficulties on their part. I do not think quite so favourably at present about the King of Sardinia, but he can't stand a moment by himself, and must follow any example we prescribe; so that I hope we shall be authorised what part to take if one or both of the allies refuse to sign. 1748.

The French in their new project have, as your Grace will observe, brought themselves as near as possible to the preliminaries; as they say, in order to prevent any objection from the several parties concerned, who, as they have all acceded to these articles, cannot refuse to confirm them at present. This is plausible, and perhaps true in some degree; but I am by no means so vain of my own work as not to be aware that a more prevalent reason for their sticking to those articles may be their considering them as defective in some points that regard us. I am sure no one saw their defects in stronger colours than I did at the time I set my hand to them; and I flatter myself that my friends do not think it was out of ignorance, but out of a knowledge that no better conditions were to be had, at a

1748. time when it was absolutely necessary for us to conclude, that I accepted the terms that begun the cessation of arms. I hope, for this reason, that our situation at the time when the preliminaries were made will come into consideration with the rest, and that we shall not be the first to look backward and suggest arguments against ourselves, which will certainly be the case if we don't put a good face both upon the beginning and the conclusion of this important work.

I think I have now some reason to flatter myself that it will not be long before I shall have the happiness of paying my respects to your Grace, and of renewing in person the assurances of that invariable attachment with which I shall ever remain, &c.

SANDWICH.

P.S. I am sure the South Sea Company cannot complain of our having neglected their interests; for we were within a hair's breadth of breaking off the negotiation for having insisted too strongly upon the insertion of the explanation demanded in their favour by the renewal of Doddington's treaties; and I am convinced that without Bentinck's interposition, the French would have refused after all to produce their project, which in my opinion would have had the above-mentioned effect.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, September 23. 1748.

My Lord,

Having received on Tuesday night last the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson's despatches to your Grace, enclosing the *contre-projet* of the French plenipotentiaries, I took the first opportunity of communicating them to the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham, who were of opinion that, in consideration of the very material business contained in them, it would be proper to desire a meeting of those of his Majesty's servants who are in town, in order to lay before them the several most important matters now transmitted to us from Aix-la-Chapelle, and on which the fate of the peace seems greatly to depend, that I might be able to transmit to your Grace their sentiments thereupon, which they would humbly submit to his Majesty's consideration.

In consequence of this, we had a meeting last night at Powis House, at which were present the Chancellor, the Duke of Dorset, the Duke of Grafton, Earl Gower, Mr. Pelham, and myself; and having gone through, with great attention, the *contre-projet*, and the several papers accompanying it, I am now to acquaint your Grace with the result of our opinion on the whole.

The immediate taking hold of the favourable disposition I thought I perceived, as well in the French plenipotentiaries as in Count Kaunitz, com-

1748. — pared with what it was some time since, seemed to me of so great consequence, (considering the length of time this negotiation has been on foot, and the crisis to which things seemed to be brought by the approach of the winter, in which, after the troops are settled in their winter quarters, and for various other reasons incident to that season, the evacuations and cessions seem difficult, if not impossible, to be made,) that I flattered myself his Majesty would not be displeased with hearing the sentiments of his servants in England on a point on which so much depends, especially as much time may be gained, and the conclusion of the peace accelerated, which, at this juncture, seems to be of the utmost consequence, considering the necessity the nation is under of making a speedy reduction of expense, by their humbly submitting to his Majesty's consideration their thoughts upon the *contre-projet*, now delivered as a kind of *ultimatum* by the French plenipotentiaries.

To take the *contre-projet* in the order in which it is drawn, and to make the necessary observations as the articles follow each other, will not only shorten the work in hand, but render it, at the same time, clearer and more intelligible; I will therefore follow that method, and lay before your Grace the observations that have occurred to the Lords in going through the *projet*, and the Earl of Sandwich's and Sir T. Robinson's despatches accompanying and explaining it.

The 1st article, being a general one, and usual in

all treaties of peace, seems to require no observation to be made upon it. 1748.

The 2d (which is now substituted in the room of one which was so justly excepted to by his Majesty in the former *projet*, as that it seemed calculated to comprehend in its general amnesty his Majesty's rebellious subjects,) seems to be liable to no objection whatsoever, as it is word for word the same with the 21st article of the preliminaries. It may not be improper to take notice in this place that the French ministers, having omitted that article in their present *projet* upon the just exceptions made against it by the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson, and having expressly declared that they have no thought whatever of interfering with his Majesty's interior concerns, or what regards his subjects, seems to give room to put a favourable interpretation of their sincere desire to conclude, in obviating themselves what had so justly offended his Majesty.

The 3d article, renewing the several treaties therein specified, seems to require no farther observation than that the treaty of Madrid of 1667, and the triple alliance of 1717, which concern the King and his allies, and also the treaty of Vienna of 1738, between the late Emperor and France, are therein confirmed, though not mentioned so to be in the preliminaries. With regard to the treaties of Madrid in 1715 and 1716, called Mr. Doddington's treaties, it doth appear, by what the French plenipotentiaries declared to the Earl of Sandwich

1748. and Sir T. Robinson, that there was no possibility of getting them inserted; and the stiffness of the French ministers in refusing to communicate their *projet* for some time on account of their dissatisfaction on our plenipotentiaries having insisted on the admission of these treaties, seems plainly to evince that they were determined to abide strictly to what they had promised the court of Spain in relation to them; and this does not appear to be matter of importance enough to run any risk of even retarding the conclusion of the peace.

The 4th article, relating to the prisoners of war, seems to be liable to no objection, as no instance, it is conceived, can be brought, when at the conclusion of a general pacification, when no cartel had been settled, either subsistence whilst in a state of captivity, or ransom when discharged from it, had been paid.

The 5th article, with regard to the restitutions and cessions, being entirely conformable to the preliminaries, seems liable to no objection.

The 6th article, which fixes the term for the restitutions and cessions in Europe being made, viz. one month after the exchange of the ratifications, and which likewise specifies that the places in the Low Countries to be restored to the Empress Queen shall be held by her *upon the same foot, and under the same conditions, as she possessed them before the commencement of the present war*, (though it were to be wished that the French ministers would have consented to the method proposed by his

Majesty for the making of them at some period antecedent to the ratifications, yet, as the Earl of Sandwich and Sir Thomas Robinson have pressed this matter as far as it would go, and as there appears to be some weight in what the French ministers allege,) it seems to admit of no difficulty on our part, nor to be of consequence enough to hazard the negotiation upon. The latter part of this article, relating to the artillery, &c. taken in the conquered towns that are to be restored, seems to be liable to no objection, except in that part of it which is objected to in the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson's despatch, where the dismantled towns are to be excepted by name; which, as it cannot be done in the East Indies, may possibly be negatively construed to our prejudice. However, this seems of little consequence, and to be obviated by the declaration of the 8th of July.

1748.

The 7th article, for the cessions of the duchies of Parma, Placentia, and Guastalla, being drawn up in conformity to Count Kaunitz's Latin *projet*, seems to require no observations to be made on our part.

The 8th, which only chalks out a method for the cessions and restitutions being more easily put in execution, as well for the ease of the troops as the inhabitants of the respective countries, requires no observation.

The 9th article, relating to the restitutions to be made in the distant parts of the world, America and the East Indies, and requiring hostages to be given

1748. — on the part of his Majesty for their being fully accomplished, and making no reciprocity of hostages to be sent to England on the part of France for the fulfilling her engagements in relation to any conquests she may have made in those distant parts, seems to require some notice to be taken of it, more especially as I am directed by your Grace's despatch from the Göhrde of the $\frac{8}{19}$ th instant to consult his Majesty's servants, whether it is their opinion that, in all events, the reciprocity of the hostages shall be insisted upon. In consequence of this direction of his Majesty this affair has been considered; and though it doth appear highly reasonable for the King to insist on the reciprocity of hostages being delivered by France as a security for their fulfilling their engagements to us, in like manner as we consent to do to them, yet as it is plain the court of France can never be brought to acquiesce in it, it is most humbly submitted to his Majesty, as our opinion, that it is not worth while to run any risk of not bringing the negotiation to a speedy conclusion upon that account; but that with regard to the particular stipulation, that the hostages to be sent should be peers of Great Britain, it is apprehended that very great difficulties may arise in agreeing literally to that stipulation, and it is to be believed that the court of France will, upon this matter being fully explained to them, and the difficulties shown to them which it may possibly put the King under, recede from this pretension of theirs, and be satisfied with its being stipulated that

the hostages be persons of rank and condition; but if this should be finally insisted upon by France, it is humbly submitted to his Majesty whether some expedient may not be found out, by the plenipotentiary coming to an explanation with the French plenipotentiary that the persons so to be sent shall be peers of Great Britain, though the words in the article shall stand persons of rank and condition. 1748.

The 10th and 11th articles, relating entirely to the powers on the Continent, seem to require no observation from hence in case they themselves acquiesce in it, which it is presumed they will do, Count Bentinck having made no objection to it on the part of Holland, who is equally concerned in the point with any of the other powers.

Though the 12th article doth not obtain for the King of Sardinia all that he demands, or that might be wished to be obtained for him were the affairs of the allies so circumstanced as to demand it, yet as all he acquired by the treaty of Worms is confirmed to him, as well as the restitution of his former possessions, and the eventual reversion of that part of the Plaisantin he now possesses, it is to be hoped that Prince will be no hinderance to the conclusion of the general pacification, especially as he must be convinced his Majesty has done more than could be justly demanded of him, in supporting him to the utmost in all his pretensions.

The 13th and 14th articles, relating to the Republic of Genoa and the Duke of Modena, are liable to no objection, no more than the 15th, which,

1748. being a general article for the preserving the peace of Italy, and leaving every thing in the situation it was before the war, ought, of course, to be agreeable to all parties.

The 16th article, relating to the Assiento and the annual ship, and confining the term of *non-jouissance* to four years, has already been referred by his Majesty's commands to his servants, who have reported their opinion thereupon; and I having above in the observations on the 3d article, taken notice of the risk that was run of breaking off the negotiation by the insisting on the renewal of the treaty of Madrid of 1715 and 1716, shall trouble your Grace no farther on that head at present.

By the 17th article Dunkirk is to remain fortified on the side of the land as it is at present, and on the side of the sea, upon the foot of ancient treaties. Though it is apprehended this article is not as could be wished, yet it is humbly submitted to his Majesty whether it can be expected France will give way in this point, especially as this article is taken word for word from the preliminaries.

The 18th article, which *refers the points mentioned in it to future negotiation*, seems to have this one good effect, that the protracting the coming to a conclusion, which is so necessary at present, by entering into these several minute articles, is thereby prevented.

The 19th article, guaranteeing the succession to the crown in his Majesty's royal family, and the disclaiming the Pretender and his descendants o



both sexes, seems satisfactory and proper; as also 1748.
the 20th, in which his Majesty, as Elector of
Brunswick, Lunenbourg, *et ses états et possessions*
en Allemagne, are comprehended in the present
treaty.

The 21st, renewing the Pragmatic Sanction,
requires no observation.

As by the 22d article the duchy of Silesia and
county of Glatz is guaranteed to his Prussian
Majesty by all the contracting powers, so by the 23d
article all the powers *contractantes et intéressées* are
very justly obliged to a reciprocity for any ad-
vantages that may accrue to them by this treaty.

The 24th and 25th articles seem entirely matter of
form, for which reason I will not trouble your Grace
with any observations upon them.

Upon the whole, the Lords would humbly submit
to his Majesty as their opinion, that as it appears
to them, not only by the present behaviour of
Count Kaunitz, but more particularly by the late
convention signed between him and the French
plenipotentiaries for the withdrawing 30,000 men
of each side out of the Low Countries, and also by
the several facilities showed in this project as calcu-
lated to accommodate the court of Vienna, that the
Empress Queen has already taken her resolution of
finishing matters with France; it is reasonably to be
expected that no difficulties will arise on her part in
the conclusion of the definitive treaty, to which she
will either, in all probability, come in as an original
contracting party, or by an immediate accession.

1748. It now remains to be considered, in case the King of Sardinia should stand out, what steps it might be proper to take to prevent the protracting to a farther time the restitutions and cessions; and whether it may not be possible, in case that event should happen, which it is not doubted all possible means will be taken to prevent, to concert, in conjunction with the court of Vienna, the republic of Holland, and the courts of France and Spain, some means for putting those powers who shall have acceded into present possession of what is stipulated for them by the treaty; and as the King of Sardinia is only in possession of some part of the state of Genoa and a small district of the Plaisantin, and as the duchy of Savoy and the county of Nice may be retained in the hands of Spain till he shall have acceded, it is thought the other restitutions and cessions might proceed, especially as it cannot be doubted but the King of Sardinia must finally concur, as it can't be supposed he will be able to stand alone and unsupported.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

1748.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Woburn Abbey, September 27. 1748.

My Lord,

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's public and separate letters from Göhrde of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th instant. I will order the public letter to be laid before their Excellencies the Lords Justices at their next meeting, and will direct an account to be sent to your Grace of what their Excellencies shall have done in pursuance of the directions signified to them in that despatch. Having on account of my private affairs obtained from the Lords Justices leave of absence for a short time, I must beg your Grace to lay me at his Majesty's feet, and to assure him that I will take effectual care that the public business shall not suffer by my absence from town on my own private affairs, having left orders for every thing that is material to be transmitted hither immediately to me; and indeed, my Lord, nothing but the urgency of my business here would have permitted me to have even thought of being a fortnight together absent from London.

As your Grace will doubtless have received, before this can possibly come to your hands, my long despatch of the 23d instant, containing the opinion of those of his Majesty's servants who were in town upon M. du Thiel's project, which had been transmitted hither by the Earl of Sandwich and Sir Thomas Robinson; and as by the behaviour of Count

1748. Kaunitz at Aix, and more particularly by the late convention signed between him and the French ministers, it seems plainly to appear that the court of Vienna will no longer stand out, it seems entirely unnecessary at present to refer to his Majesty's servants the several points mentioned in your Grace's despatch to me of the ^{28th Aug.}_{8th Sept.}, as it is reasonable to suppose that the cases therein specified to be considered will never exist or come into question.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Wimble, September 28. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I return your Grace my humble thanks for the honour of your letter by Parker the messenger, and the communication of the despatch which he brought. I cannot but congratulate your Grace upon this happy concurrence of opinion between his Majesty's servants in England and those at Hanover, on the last *contre-projet* of a definitive treaty; and I doubt not but it will give the King great satisfaction to receive the opinion of his servants here so early by your Grace's letter of Friday last. I think I see the work of peace now far advanced in reality, and that it is very near to a conclusion.

As to the question whereupon your Grace desires to know my sentiments, whether it is necessary that a formal meeting should be appointed in the course of the next week, upon the reference repeated to us in this letter, my private opinion is, that, considering all the circumstances of this affair, it is not; for I cannot persuade myself that the court of Vienna would have signed their convention with France, without the least communication with the British and Dutch ministers, unless they had determined to conclude in a manner more or less friendly to the King and the Republic. But upon this point of the meeting perhaps I may be thought a little interested, because it will be to the last degree inconvenient to me to return to town before Monday the 10th, or Tuesday the 11th of October. I have been forced to postpone all my private business to the last, and must therefore beg your Grace's protection and indulgence not to be called away before that time; but if by reason of the positiveness of the orders your Grace and Mr. Pelham should think it necessary to come to a decision of the main question, viz. "whether, in case the court of Vienna should refuse to concur in this *projet*, it might not be advisable for his Majesty to direct his plenipotentiaries to proceed to sign with the other powers without that court?" I make no scruple to deposit my opinion with your Grace, that, considering the present critical and dangerous situation, and the impracticability of resuming and carrying on the war, which is now greatly augmented by the Em-

1748. press Queen's late convention with France, and the actual withdrawing of her troops in consequence of it, it is advisable for his Majesty so to do, unless other Lords shall see strong reasons to the contrary, which do not occur to me, provided that the description of the hostages being peers be left out.

As to the other questions, relating to his Majesty's German troops and the Hessian troops, they are subsequent considerations, and I submit to your Grace by no means necessary to be determined at present. If the King and the rest of his allies should be obliged to sign without the Empress Queen, and by reason thereof the Austrian Netherlands be left in the possession of France, I have great doubts in my own mind whether it will be consistent with the security of Holland, and consequently of Great Britain, to send back all those troops, even although the court of France should agree to retire a proportionable number of their troops within their own frontiers; since it is obvious to every body how soon they may be brought back again, especially if they are not reformed.

I have now taken the liberty to lay my thoughts before your Grace in confidence, which will make my attendance unnecessary, and therefore I hope excused by your Grace.

My Lord Anson desires me to add his best compliments to you, and I am, &c.

HARDWICKE.

1748.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

September 29. 1748.

My dear Lord,

As my expedition to Esher has occasioned a little return of my disorder, I hope your Grace will excuse me from having the honour of waiting upon you at Woburn, as I fully intended. It is a great mortification to me to be deprived of that pleasure; but hope for another opportunity when I may with greater ease and more perfect health attend your Grace, and review the Cacti of Woburn. I am sorry I did not mention to your Grace my opinion upon what was referred to the King's servants in my brother's letter of the 19th; but I believe I have sufficiently convinced his Grace in my private letter that we have nothing to do but to sign as soon as we can, with or without Count Kaunitz. As to the other question, whether we would advise the sending home the Hanoverians, and giving notice to the Hessians, I am very clear in that also; for when the treaty is signed, why are we alone to be at the expense of keeping troops abroad? The Queen of Hungary has withdrawn her troops to her own hereditary countries, and the Dutch are sending theirs into dispersed winter quarters: why should ours, then, remain at an immense expense for the provisional security of those countries, in case France should prove false, which the owners themselves don't think proper to concern themselves about? I have

1748. wrote all this and much more to my brother; but
to my great surprise and concern I have this day
received a private letter from the Duke, in which
he seems exceedingly anxious upon this last point;
and if I understand his Royal Highness's views, he
wishes for more troops rather than to discharge
those which are already in our pay. I am deter-
mined to write my opinion freely to the Duke; for
what shall we have to say for ourselves here, if we
alone continue our expenses even after the treaty
of peace shall be signed? I have taken the liberty
to mention these things to your Grace, for as I am
here alone I protest I don't know what to do. My
spirits are much affected to see whatever measures
we take, *that* of economy enters not into the heads
of our leaders. I am sure of your Grace's assist-
ance in that great and necessary point; for without
we do soon, and effectually, pursue measures of
economy, this country is undone.

I am, &c.

H. PELHAM.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Private.)

Hanover, ^{Sept. 21.}
_{Oct. 2.} 1748.

My dear Lord,

Upon my arrival here last night, I received
the honour of your Grace's private letter of the

11th: I am persuaded the King will have no objection to your Grace's absence this week at Woburn, as his Majesty knows you would come to town whenever his service required it. I hope it will not be inconvenient to come to town upon the receipt of my letters; for it will be very improper to proceed to the conclusion of so great a work as this definitive treaty without the formal sanction of his Majesty's servants in England; however, I know their private opinions so well, that I have ventured to direct our ministers to sign with Kaunitz, and without him I cannot do it, till I receive your Lordship's opinion in town. I am under continued obligations to your Grace in our Cambridge affair. You see the success that has attended your former interposition, by this frank declaration of the Vice-Chancellor: I did not trouble your Grace upon the subject of the bishopric of London. The King has offered it to Sherlock; but if he should not take it, the King has long intended to give it, when vacant, to Bishop Butler. Till that is done, and Sherlock's mind is known, it is impossible to fix any other scheme in consequence: my brother will tell your Grace my first thoughts about it. He will also acquaint you with all I know about the time of our return to England.

I am, my dear Lord, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

As I hear my Lord Gower is returned, I beg my

N N

1748. kindest compliments to him. I hope Staffordshire
is won.

P. S. I acquainted your Grace at the time that the King agreed to the Duke of Richmond's going ambassador to Paris. I hope the declaration will be now soon made; that is, the definitive treaty soon signed. I wish your Grace would have the goodness to talk to him about it. I am charmed with Keene's letter to your Grace. As soon as I return to the Göhrde, I will despatch all his instruments. As you extremely approved Colonel Yorke's going to Paris, and as the immediate sending any body did not happen, I thought your Grace would not be against his going with the Duke of Richmond, which he seemed to like: he may, if thought proper, stay minister at Paris when the embassy is at an end.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Woburn Abbey, October 4. 1748.

My Lord,

I did myself the honour to acquaint your Grace, by my letter of the 27th of last month, that I would direct your Grace's despatch from Göhrde of the ¹⁷/₂₈th of September, to be laid before their Excellencies the Lords Justices at their next meet-

ing, which was accordingly done; and your Grace will have seen by the minutes of the 29th of September, which their secretaries have transmitted to you, the light in which the proposal of the court of Petersburg, for discharging the Russian troops, appears to them. 1748.

It was then suggested by Mr. Pelham, that it might be proper, in case his Majesty should consent to the composition of 200,000 ducats, 150,000 crowns, and the expense of the hospital, that some treaty or convention should be made to authorise the payment of the sums required for those services, and proposed therefore humbly to submit it to his Majesty's consideration, whether full powers should not be sent to Mr. Mordaunt to treat upon these heads (especially as it appears that General Lieven has already received them from his court), as by this we might be at a certainty, and not liable to any future demands the Court of Russia may make upon us. Before I quit this subject, I cannot omit taking notice, as a justification for myself in not having sent over to your Grace the opinion of his Majesty's servants in relation to this proposal, that upon re-examining your Grace's despatch from Hanover of the $\frac{4}{15}$ th of September, in which this affair is mentioned for the first time, I find the words are, "that in case the King's servants in England shall not have any objection, which at present does not occur to his Majesty, the sooner the King's share of the 150,000 crowns, &c. is remitted to General Lieven it might

1748. be the better." As these words did not seem to me to be directing a formal opinion to be sent to your Grace upon this point, especially as no objection to the proposal did arise from hence, I hope I have not incurred his Majesty's displeasure in not having mentioned it in any of my despatches. As I find no mention made in the minutes of the Lords Justices' proceedings of the 29th of September, relating to that part of your Grace's despatch of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th of September, which refers to their consideration what may be proper farther to be done with regard to the late application made by Mr. Burnaby in his Majesty's name to the canton of Fribourg, I will not fail to lay this matter before their Excellencies at their next meeting, and will immediately inform your Grace what their opinion shall be thereupon.

I am, with great truth and respect, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Woburn Abbey, October 4. 1748.

My Lord,

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's several despatches of the $\frac{19}{30}$ th September, of the $\frac{21. \text{Sept.}}{2. \text{Oct.}}$, and of the $\frac{25. \text{Sept.}}{6. \text{Oct.}}$, with

their several enclosures. Your Grace will have seen, by my letter of the 27th of last month, the reasons which induced the Lords, to whom his Majesty was pleased to refer the several points contained in your Grace's despatch to me of the $\frac{17}{28}$ th of August last, to postpone coming to any formal opinion thereupon; not only as it was believed that the case of the Empress Queen's refusing to concur in the definitive treaty would never exist, and consequently that an opinion formed upon that supposition would be unnecessary, but also that it appeared, by your Grace's subsequent despatch to me of the $\frac{12}{23}$ September, that his Majesty gave us leave to postpone coming to the discussion of that question for the present. However, as I am now directed to transmit to your Grace, for his Majesty's information, the opinion of his servants here in relation to these points, I must beg leave to inform you of the steps I have taken in order to enable me to execute, as far as lies in my power, his Majesty's directions.

I did immediately (after having read with great attention your Grace's despatch of the $\frac{19}{30}$ th of September, with its several enclosures,) send them all to the Chancellor, who is now at Wimple, and did write to him, desiring him to give me his opinion of what was proper to be done on this occasion, and whether any formal meeting should be appointed for taking these points into consideration. I likewise wrote to Mr. Pelham, in order

1748. to know his opinion, and I herewith enclose to
your Grace extracts from their several letters.

I hope his Majesty will not disapprove what I have done; and as the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham were the only persons to whom this affair was originally referred, in conjunction with myself, and as at this present hardly any of your Lords Justices are in town, I flattered myself the transmitting in writing to your Grace our several opinions will be the most satisfactory of any thing, especially as it is impossible for the Chancellor to be present at any meeting to be held in town before the 10th or 11th of this month.

Though there is no difference of opinion between the Chancellor and Mr. Pelham with regard to the concluding without the Empress Queen, in case she shall refuse to concur, yet as there seems to be some with regard to the withdrawing from the Low Countries his Majesty's electoral troops and the Hessians, I believe it will be necessary for me, in the stating of my opinion, to mention to your Grace in what I differ from the one, and adhere to the other.

The first question, viz. whether, in case the court of Vienna should refuse to concur in this project, it might not be advisable for his Majesty to direct his plenipotentiaries to proceed to sign with the other powers without that court, seems to me, for the reasons alleged by the Chancellor, to admit of no dispute, and, consequently, I can venture to submit my humble opinion to his Majesty,

entirely in conformity to that of his Lordship's, 1748.
 on this head; but with regard to the second question, that relates to the sending back his Majesty's German troops, and the Hessians, I do own I entirely agree in opinion with Mr. Pelham, as I think the salvation of this country depends upon strictly following the most rigid system of frugality and economy, without which, I fear, this nation will be little able to defend her own liberties (much less the liberties of Europe), and must inevitably fall a sacrifice to the ambition of France, who, it is not to be doubted, will take advantage of the present breathing time to re-establish her navy, renew her commerce, and put her finances upon the best footing, by making seasonable and proper reductions in all her military expenses. This we have seen already begun by her; and should this country, on the other hand, continue the expenses of war in time of peace, how little able shall we be, in any future emergency, to withstand any attempts she may make upon us! Your Grace having, in your despatch of the ^{21. Sept.}_{2. Oct.}, transmitted to me Mr. Legge's letter from Berlin of the ¹⁷₂₈th Sept., enclosing the petition of the bankers Splitbergen and Daun to his Prussian Majesty, in relation to their ship the *Petit David*, and likewise the *pro memoriâ*, delivered by Comte Podewils to Mr. Legge, I will not fail to lay these several papers before his Majesty's servants, and also transmit to your Grace, by the first opportunity, their sentiments thereupon; and upon my arrival

1748. in town (which will be to-morrow) I will direct a narrative to be made out of all the transactions between me and the Judge of the Court of Admiralty, in relation to this affair, which I must beg the favour of your Grace to report to his Majesty, in order to show that nothing has been left undone by me, which might bring this matter to a speedy decision. I can assure your Grace this affair, and others of the like nature, have been of infinite vexation to me during the course of the whole summer. As I think I have answered the several points in the despatches I have above acknowledged, nothing now remains for me but to congratulate your Grace on the present favourable disposition of the court of Vienna, and on the appearance of the great work of peace being so near its conclusion, which both Mr. Keith's letters from Vienna and Comte Kaunitz's late behaviour seem to give great reason to expect.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Hanover, ^{Sept. 27.}
Oct 8. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I had this morning the honour of your Grace's letter of the 20th. Your Grace will have seen by my late letters that, as far as depends upon

the King, there is no fear of our losing the first 1748.
favourable moment of concluding the peace. You
will particularly have seen how much I, for one,
approve the project of M. du Theil; how preferable
I think it to any thing I have yet seen come or to
be expected before from the French; and that I am
not, forgive me for saying so, a little proud of the
method which things were put in that has evidently
produced it; which I hope will, at least, I think,
ought to, silence all that has been said against it.
The letter from the plenipotentiaries of the 1st,
N. S., of which I suppose your Grace has a copy,
shows that M. ——— was preparing to take pos-
session of the Low Countries; and I am inclined
to think that Kaunitz had provisional orders to
concur, even before he saw Du Theil's project to
Vienna; but I suppose he thought it safer to stay
for particular orders upon that project. This I
collect from the Empress's and Uhfeld's* discourse
to Keith. If this is true in any degree, it shows the
great good effect that the communication, and the
orders sent upon it to Keith, has produced at
Vienna. I will send your Grace, by the first mes-
senger after my return to the Göhrde, where I pro-
pose to be to-morrow night, Mr. Keene's instruments
and appointments, made out according to the letter
to your Grace, and will also receive his Majesty's
final orders about Lord Rochford for Lisbon.

I am extremely pleased that your Grace's

* Chancellor of the court of Vienna. For a character of him, see
Coxe's House of Austria, vol. v. p. 39.

1748. thoughts about Lord Halifax and the Duke of Leeds has succeeded; and am much obliged to you for it, as the Duke of Leeds is also. I really think Halifax has judged right for himself. I beg my compliments to the Duchess of Bedford.

I am, &c.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. LEGGE.

Whitehall, October 11. 1748.

Sir,

I had yesterday morning a very long and copious conversation with M. Michel, in relation to the orders he has lately received from his Prussian Majesty to make the strongest remonstrances here, as well against the captures that have been made on his trading subjects by English privateers, as also by the affected delays (as his Prussian Majesty is pleased to call them) of the High Court of Admiralty in redressing the grievances complained of. I am very well apprised that M. Michel has only executed the orders he has received from his master to repeat these complaints, which have been exaggerated at the court of Berlin much farther than in justice they ought to have been; and I am persuaded that M. Michel will do me the justice to say that these delays complained of have neither been owing to any neglect of mine, nor to any failure of

justice in the Court of Admiralty. You will see 1748.
by the copies of the letters that have passed between
my secretaries and the judge of that court, which I
herewith enclose to you, the several steps I have
taken in order to bring (which has been so strongly
recommended to me by you) the affair of the
bankers, Splitbergen and Daun, to a conclusion;
which must have been long ago decided, had not the
judge been obliged to put off the meeting of the
Court on account of a violent fit of the gout he was
attacked with at his house in the country. That is
now over, and the Court of Admiralty begin their
sessions on the 16th instant, so that, in a very
short time, I hope that affair will be concluded. I
must now inform you, Sir, of some farther parti-
culars which passed in our conversation, and which
I apprehend it is necessary to inform you of, as
in all probability you will hear some mention of
it at Berlin. The enclosed copy of a despatch
from M. Andriè* to his Prussian Majesty, dated
from London, May 29. 1744, and containing the
précis of a conversation between that minister and
the Earl of Granville, then Secretary of State
for the North Department, will inform you suf-
ficiently upon what grounds that Prince thinks him-
self entitled to demand a *dédommagement* for his
subjects, whose effects have been seized, and since
condemned in the Court of Admiralty, in derogation
to that verbal declaration of the then Secretary of

* Prussian minister to the court of St. James.

1748. State. In answer to this, I replied to M. Michel that I was entirely ignorant of any such verbal declaration having passed between the Earl of Granville and M. Andriè, having never heard any mention made of it till he, some time ago, informed me of it himself, and having never seen a copy of it till this he now delivered to me. That it was impossible for me, till I had received his Majesty's orders, to give him any positive answer concerning this demand, as the verbal declaration, upon which the right of the *dédommagement* was founded, is said to have been given before I had the honour of being in his Majesty's service, and of which I must, consequently, be unacquainted. That, however, I did imagine there must necessarily have been some mistake in M. Andriè's reporting this conversation to his master. As I did not apprehend the judge of the Court of Admiralty could possibly take any cognisance in his court of such a verbal declaration, even though it had been transmitted to him by the Secretary of State (which I could not find to have been the case), but that he would have been obliged to have conformed himself to the law of nations, which is the only rule that Court has to guide themselves by, except with relation to those powers between whom and this country there are marine treaties subsisting, which is not the case with the King of Prussia. As I had not received any orders from his Majesty what language it might be proper to hold upon this subject, I chose to wave entering farther into the discussion of it with M. Michel; and

I trouble you with this account only to put you upon your guard, in case his Prussian Majesty or his ministers should hold the like discourse to you at Berlin. I believe it is unnecessary to recommend to you to suggest, in answer to any complaints that may be made to you of illegal captures by privateers, and of affected delays of the Court of Admiralty, that the greatest care imaginable be taken to ascertain the complaints before they are sent over hither, and not permit them to be exaggerated, which can only tend to create a disunion between the two courts, and not be of any advantage to the parties injured. I do not pretend to disculpate the proceedings of our privateers—I believe in many cases they have been highly blameable; but I can venture to affirm, on the other hand, that complaints are too easily received at the court of Berlin, upon the bare allegations of those merchants who have carried on during the war an illicit trade, and have lent their names to cover the effects of his Majesty's enemies from being seized by his ships of war and privateers. The latter part of my conversation with M. Michel turned upon the same subject as Count Podewil's *pro memoriâ* delivered to you did, viz. that if his Prussian Majesty found no redress for his injured subjects, upon these representations, he should find himself obliged to indemnify them out of the Silesia loan. My answer to this was, that I was excessively surprised to hear his Prussian Majesty had any thoughts of that nature, as I thought I could venture to take on me

1748.

1748. to assure him (though I had received no particular orders thereupon from his Majesty), that the King would always look upon the King of Prussia's fulfilling his engagements to his subjects upon the Silesia loan as the condition upon which that duchy was guaranteed by his Majesty to the King of Prussia; which condition, if it was once violated, would of course annul the guaranty.

B.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE.

Whitehall, October 14. 1748.

My Lord,

Having received, on Wednesday night last, a copy of the definitive treaty as it was signed the $\frac{7}{18}$ th* instant by his Majesty's plenipotentiaries, those of France and the States General by Mr. Leveson, whom the Earl of Sandwich and Sir T. Robinson had despatched hither for that purpose, I

* The news of the signature of the definitive treaty of peace, by the plenipotentiaries of the King of France and of the Lords of the States General of the United Provinces, was brought by the Hon. Richard Leveson Gower, who was ordered by the Lords Justices the sum of five hundred pounds. — *Minutes of Meeting of Lords Justices*, October 13. 1748.

An additional five hundred pounds were subsequently ordered; in consequence of Mr. Wortley Montagu having received a thousand pounds for conveying the intelligence to the King at Hanover.

last night communicated it to those of his Majesty's servants who are now in town, viz. the Chancellor, Lord Gower, and Mr. Pelham, who were the same Lords (except the Duke of Dorset, who is out of town) to whom I communicated, by his Majesty's order, the *contre-projet* of M. du Theil, and transmitted to your Grace our opinions thereupon in my despatch of the 23d of last month. As there appears to be very little variation between the treaty, as it is now signed, and the *contre-projet* of M. du Theil, and as I have already informed your Grace of our opinions upon that in my despatch of the 23d of September, I shall at present only take notice of those differences that have occurred to us in comparing the treaty and the *projet* together, and the difficulties that may possibly arise in the completion of it, from the King of Sardinia's not acceding immediately to the treaty. 1748.

The first article in which there is any material alteration is the fourth article of the treaty, and relative to the sending back the prisoners of war, which is agreed to be begun immediately upon the exchange of the ratifications, and to be completed in six weeks after such exchange. I must observe to your Grace that this seems to be an alteration in our favour, from what was first proposed in M. du Theil's *contre-projet*; in which it was proposed that the prisoners should be sent back immediately upon the signature of the definitive treaty, by which means they must have been all restored before the exchange of the ratifications; whereas by the treaty

1748. as it is now signed, the sending back the prisoners of war is to keep pace with the making the restitutions and cessions, which seems to give good reason to think well of the sincerity of the French court, who doubtless are very desirous of getting home the great number of their seamen, of whom they stand in great need at present, and who are now prisoners of war in England.

That part of the 6th article which relates to the putting the troops of the Republic into possession of those towns, the sovereignty of which, before the war, belonged to the Empress Queen, but in which the Republic had right of garrison, having been concerted between Count Kaunitz and Mr. Bentinck, and seeming absolutely necessary to be modelled in the manner it now is, in order to induce Count Kaunitz to accede, cannot, as we apprehend, be liable to great objection on our part, as the Dutch, who are most immediately concerned, appear to be satisfied with it.

The 12th article, relative to the King of Sardinia, being word for word the same with the 7th article of the preliminaries, it is hoped that prince will not refuse to accede to the treaty upon that account, especially as it is manifest to all the world that his Majesty has done every thing that was possible to serve him, without running the risk of breaking off the negotiation; and this very 12th article, being inserted in the treaty as it now stands, seemed to be considered by Count Kaunitz as a *sine quâ non* of his accession.

The words added at the end of the 16th article appear strongly calculated in favour of the Assiento contract and the annual ship, as all the conditions which have been or ought to have been executed with regard to it, before the present war, are by this article confirmed, and, consequently, must be looked upon as advantageous to us. 1748.

I must now inform your Grace of the sentiments of his Majesty's servants with regard to the secret article. It was surely much to be wished that the French court would have been satisfied with the article as it stood in the treaty, but as we are confident his Majesty's plenipotentiaries did all that lay in their power to persuade the French plenipotentiaries not to insist on this point, which was not attended with the success that might have been expected, it now remains to be considered what it will be advisable for his Majesty to do in this conjuncture, upon which we would take the liberty to suggest humbly, for his Majesty's consideration, that two peers of Great Britain (not peers of parliament) and officers in the army, not under the rank of lieutenant-colonel, might be the properest persons to be sent to the court of the French king to remain as hostages for the fulfilling the engagements his Majesty has entered into for making the restitutions in the distant parts of the world. If this should be agreeable to his Majesty, we would submit it to his consideration, that it might be proper that the persons so designed to be sent as hostages should be forthwith named, and their

1748. consents previously obtained; and as little time as possible should be lost in fixing this, as the hostages are stipulated to be sent immediately upon the ratifications being exchanged.

The seasonable remonstrances his Majesty caused to be made by his minister at the court of Vienna, in order to induce that court to accede to the definitive treaty, having had their desired effect, we flatter ourselves that remonstrances of the like nature, to be made by his Majesty's minister at the court of Turin, cannot fail of success, especially as that prince must see that his Majesty has done every thing that could be reasonably expected from him to promote his interests; and as what is in dispute between the courts of Vienna and Turin seems more to be matter of form and words than reality, his Majesty seems justly to be entitled to expect an immediate compliance from his Sardinian Majesty, especially as in no one point his real and essential interest has been given up.

Before I conclude this despatch, I must beg the favour of your Grace to take his Majesty's pleasure whether the definitive treaty shall be communicated to the Privy Council, as was done after the treaty of Utrecht, and, in case that should be his Majesty's pleasure, to inform me of it, that I may acquaint my Lord President, in order that a council may be summoned for that purpose. I must likewise desire to be informed whether, in that case, the secret article should be communicated at the same time with the definitive treaty.

Nothing now remains but to congratulate your Grace upon this great work being brought to this point of maturity; and I flatter myself that, considering the present circumstances of the affairs of the allies, his Majesty will think as good conditions are obtained for the alliance in general as could reasonably be expected, which must be acknowledged to be greatly owing to the steady and uniform conduct of his Majesty, as well towards his own allies as the French court, and which convinced that court that there was no possibility of disuniting them from each other.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Head-quarters at Eyndhoven, October 15. 1748.

My Lord Duke of Bedford,

When I was last in England, you mentioned to me a desire of getting some of Lord Loudon's regiment, or other Highlanders, to engage themselves for peopling the colony of Nova Scotia; and as I hope that our reductions are now drawing near, I should be extremely glad that you would let me know what conditions you propose for the encouragement of those people to undertake such a journey. The sooner any resolution of that sort

1748. — may be taken it will certainly be the better; and as it is much to be wished that these people may be disposed of in such a manner as to be of service to the government, instead of a detriment to it, I should most heartily join any endeavours of mine for the success of such an undertaking.

I cannot let pass this occasion without congratulating you that the great and necessary work of peace is, we may say, in a manner concluded; and I wish and hope that the King's troops may be filing off towards England, at the same time that the King's German troops shall be ordered to return. The greatest trouble and expense will be over when we can once get our dragoons home.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM.

P. S. I should be obliged to you if you would let me know what number of transports may be now in the service of the government, and what number of them may be fit for horse.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO LORD SANDWICH.*

1748.

(Private.)

London, October 17. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I had not time by the last mail to assure you how sincerely I congratulate you on having concluded the great work of peace, and that you have brought it about in such a manner, as not to leave the superiority the French have had over us in the field appear too glaringly in the treaty they have signed with us. There is nothing but the secret article† that disturbs me: our submitting to that, however necessary, is undoubtedly mortifying. As I have yet heard nothing from Hanover since the news of the signature of the treaty arrived there, I should, in prudence, not give any opinion till I am informed of his Majesty's sentiments upon it; but I cannot, in writing to you, conceal the satisfaction I feel in your having brought this great work so near its perfection; I must call it so, till the King of Sardinia's accession; as I fear the restitutions and cessions cannot be begun before the exchange of the ratifications by all the eight contracting parties. If the King of Sardinia should still continue obstinate, would it not be possible to prevail with the French, in consideration of all the parties who have acceded agreeing to sign a

* From Lord Sandwich's collection. agreeable to Lord Chancellor." Mr. Pelham to Duke of New-

† "The secret article is a foolish one, and, I find, very dis- castle, *Coxe*, vol. ii. p. 330.

1748. — separate article giving the King of Sardinia a limited time to come in, and after the expiration of that term to concert measures to oblige him to it, to make the restitutions and cessions take place, as far as regards the powers that shall have acceded, and to keep Savoy and the county of Nice as a pledge in their hands, till the King of Sardinia shall have restored to the Genoese the conquests he has made upon them, and ceded to the Infant that part of the Plaisantin he is now in possession of? However, as it is to be hoped the King of Sardinia will not oblige us to come to these extremities, I only mention this to you as an idea of my own, supposing his obstinacy should drive us to this dilemma. Upon the whole, my dear Lord, be assured no one can be more satisfied with your conduct, during the whole course of this negotiation, than myself; and I have the satisfaction to inform you that all those of the King's servants here, to whom the treaty has been communicated, seem entirely to approve of it, except the secret article, which, we are sensible, it was not in your power to avoid. When Mr. Leveson returns to you, he will inform your Lordship more particularly of my sentiments, with regard to several late occurrences, than can be conveniently done by letter. In the mean time be assured, my dear Lord, that I have ever been, and will ever continue,

Yours, &c.

BEDFORD.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

(Private.)

Aix, October 18. 1748.

My dear Lord,

Your Grace will easily imagine that it is with the utmost satisfaction that I congratulate you upon the conclusion of the great work, which is, at last, well and happily finished. I have lost no time in giving you this agreeable news; and as I thought it might be of some service both to him and to myself, as he will be able to give an account wherever it may be necessary, of my conduct in all this affair, I have made my friend Leveson the bearer of it.

I shall say not a word concerning the measures that have at last brought things to this favourable issue, because I am in hopes that there is an end of all dispute or difference of opinion between those concerned in the transaction; and it is, according to my way of thinking, our duty to unite together in support of the whole, instead of endeavouring to show where the delay of some months has been occasioned; that way of acting is, I am sure, what most becomes me on all accounts. I dare say my friends, who are apprised of all that has passed, will do me the justice they think I deserve, if my name is ever brought in question in a manner that they may judge it ought not to be mentioned; and I have many more reasons to be satisfied that my cause should remain entirely to be defended by

1748. — them rather than by myself. Your Grace will, however, I dare say, judge it necessary that I should be in England before the meeting of the parliament. I find the Duke of Newcastle is of the same opinion, and, in order to be entirely ready, I propose to set out for the Hague in a few days, to settle what matters I have to regulate there, before I quite leave this part of the world for good and all. I have his Majesty's leave to take this trip; and there can certainly be no farther occasion for more than one minister here, as all that remains to be done is either form or detail, in both which I own my insufficiency: however, I propose to be back to exchange the ratifications, unless it should be thought, in the mean time, that I may be dispensed from that attendance.

I depend upon your Grace's allowing Leveson to return to me immediately: he is of vast use to me; and as our stay abroad will now be so short, I imagine his friends will not deny me that request. If your Grace is as much pleased with him as I have reason to be, you will make me extremely happy, as, certainly, nothing can give me a more thorough satisfaction than having been of any use in the education of a person for whom your Grace is so nearly concerned.

I am, &c. &c.

SANDWICH.

MR. BENTINCK TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1748.

Aix-la-Chapelle, October 18. 1748. N. S.

My Lord,

This morning the peace was signed by the British, the French, and the Dutch ministers. I shall leave the detail of the whole affair to our common friend Lord Sandwich, whose skill and prudence in the conduct of it have surpassed the expectation, and equalled the wishes, of his friends. I take the liberty of congratulating your Grace on this great and happy event, in which you have so much share, by the protection you have given to those who have had in great measure the direction of this affair, without which protection it would, very probably, not have been brought to so speedy and happy a conclusion. I had already charged Mr. Leveson with my compliments of felicitation to your Grace on this subject; but notwithstanding the friendship he owes me out of gratitude gave me reason to hope he would be exact in executing my commission, I would not let him go without acquitting myself to you. I make use of this opportunity of assuring your Grace of the truth and respect with which

I am, &c.

W. BENTINCK.

1748.

MR. PELHAM TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Greenwich Park, Saturday, 8 o'clock.

My dear Lord,

I have read over the several voluminous despatches which your Grace did me the honour to send here this afternoon, as fast as I could, believing that the Chancellor, who seems most concerned in the business part of them, might wish to have them to peruse as soon as possible. I most heartily congratulate your Grace upon the accession of the Empress Queen and Spain : I doubt not but the Piedmontese will come in also upon the return of their courier. In my poor opinion there has been no mystery in all this affair; for when it appeared that France was sincere in her desire to make peace, and that we were determined from necessity to do so too, the other powers had no option, and therefore I cannot compliment the court of Vienna, who has hitherto given us all the trouble she could, any more than the court of Turin, who is only now beginning to give us a little. I don't know what your Grace thinks of the behaviour of that imperious court, who has the assurance to make their demand of the 100,000*l.* as a sort of condition for their ratification, but I will honestly tell your Grace I can never come into it; and rather than be an instrument in Great Britain's making such a figure, I would desire to be free from any share in the administration for the rest of my days. My brother does touch upon it in a private letter to me; but I

never imagined it could come as a formal demand 1748.
 after what has passed this whole summer. Our
 friends do as well as the time will permit in the
 reduction. I hope your Grace will quicken the
 Admiralty in sending over transports, and also send
 to the Secretary at War to be ready next regency
 day with the necessary warrants for reducing the
 marines and independent companies, that we may
 lose as little time as is possible. The expedient
 about the hostages I hope will do. Lord Sussex is
 a very proper person for one, coming as he does
 immediately from the King. I should think Lord
 Home, who I suppose is now abroad, a very proper
 person to be joined with him: it should be one a
 little further advanced in years, and whose name
 has been heard of, as all officers of his rank cer-
 tainly have. I cannot finish this letter without
 most heartily congratulating your Grace upon the
 finishing this great and necessary work so well. I
 think all those who have been employed by his
 Majesty have acquitted themselves with honour
 and ability. I wish to God my good brother would
 be satisfied with what will naturally fall to his
 share, if he will not call for it.* I intend to be in

* In a letter from the Duke of Newcastle to his brother he says, "I feel the joy of an honest man upon it. I have the secret comfort of thinking that I have not only greatly, not to say almost singly, brought it about; but that if I had not resolutely, and in a manner that has been disapproved

by you all, taken upon me to overrule my Lord Sandwich in the way he was going, things would, must have been now in the greatest confusion; perhaps no treaty signed at all, or, at best, one that would have had no effect, but to destroy the old alliance." *Coxe, Pelham Administration*, vol. ii. p. 325.

1748. town on Tuesday morning; but if your Grace wants me sooner, your commands shall be obeyed by your Grace's faithful and obedient servant,

H. PELHAM.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE DUKE OF
CUMBERLAND.

(Private.)

London, October 28. 1748.

Sir,

In obedience to your Royal Highness's commands, signified to me in your private letter of the $\frac{4}{15}$ th instant, I have talked with Mr. Pelham and the Secretary at War towards forming a plan for putting in execution the scheme I mentioned to your Royal Highness when I had the honour of paying my duty to you last in England, for engaging some part of Lord Loudon's regiment voluntarily to enlist themselves, upon proper encouragement being given them, to go over to Nova Scotia, there to settle upon lands that should be assigned them for that purpose, after having served in a military capacity for some limited time in that province, for the entire reduction of the inhabitants of it to his Majesty's obedience. There seems to be no method so likely to succeed towards effecting this necessary work as the settling in that country a sufficient number of British subjects, to be intermixed with

the French inhabitants, who are inured to the use of arms, and able to endure the northern climate: but as that must necessarily be attended with a considerable expense, and as I apprehend nothing can be done in it till after the reduction of the regiment, and as I believe it would be proposed here to send the men who shall voluntarily engage themselves for that service in independent companies, and not regimented, I conceive nothing can be finally determined on this subject before your Royal Highness's arrival in England. 1748.

I must now beg your Royal Highness's forgiveness for presuming to trouble you in an affair which nothing but the great duty and attachment I have always had for your Royal Highness could have induced me to have done, as I think it highly improper for me to pretend to give my opinion upon any point to your Royal Highness, without your express orders for so doing; but as I think this is a point which may in all probability in future be occasion of trouble to your Royal Highness, and must at present occasion a great uneasiness in the army, and as I have had frequent conversations with the Duke of Dorset about it, who has pressed me exceedingly to write to your Royal Highness, I have, upon these considerations, ventured to take this liberty, relying upon your Royal Highness's goodness to excuse it. The reduction of Gen^l. Bragge's regiment, when so many other younger corps are kept up, and when no misbehaviour can be alleged against them in the field, is so contrary to all former

1748. — precedents of reductions, that I fear it may be attended with more ill consequences than what has as yet occurred to your Royal Highness; besides, the Duke of Dorset's interesting himself so strongly in behalf of this regiment (the colonel of which has been ever attached to his family) seems to require some attention.

I will take up no more of your Royal Highness's time upon this subject; and beg leave to subscribe myself, with the greatest respect and attachment,

Your Royal Highness's

Most dutiful, and most obedient,

humble servant,

BEDFORD.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

Hanover, October ¹⁹/₃₀ 1748.

My dear Lord,

I cannot let this messenger go without returning your Grace my most sincere thanks for your most obliging compliment in your private letter, upon the good prospect affairs then had, since which, we have had the satisfaction to find our hopes were well grounded. I was too much honoured with your Grace's opinion not to show your letter to the King. I have endeavoured to do my duty in the best manner I was able. I am

very happy that it has, in any degree, succeeded, 1748.
and more so, if my friends are so good as to be
satisfied with my conduct. I know the uprightness
of my intentions, and your Grace gives me great
comfort from what you are so kind as to say.

I beg you would not be alarmed by my private
letter: it was necessary your Grace should be in-
formed of all the intelligence we receive. I will
make no use but a right one of it; but it is neces-
sary to inform those of our allies who may be the
most concerned of what may be so material to
them. I hope you will approve of what we have
done about the hostages: it is the only disagreeable
thing in the whole, and, therefore, we must make
the best of it; but the thought of Lord Sussex was
right: he is a very discreet, good kind of young
man, and will do well every where. Wortley has
a mind to go with him to Paris: he is gone with
him to the army. I don't yet know the day of
the King's setting out: I propose to set out the day
after the birthday, and so to call at the Hague for
a day or two. I am, with great truth and regard,
my dear Lord,

Your Grace's most affectionate

humble servant,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

1748.

LORD HARDWICKE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Powis House, November 6. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I have the honour to return herewith the packet which I received from your Grace last night, and I beg leave to congratulate your Grace on the accession of the King of Sardinia, which completes the great and good work of a general peace, wherein I take the greater pleasure, as your Grace has had so great a share in it. The postscript to H. R. H. the Duke's letter makes me fear a little that the expedient for laying aside the secret article does not go down so easily at the court of France as was hoped. I own I always had a jealousy that their pride would incline them to retain it, when once they had got it.

There is a letter from the Duke of Newcastle to your Grace of the ^{30th Oct.}~~10th Nov.~~, which is marked *private*, but relative to some points of business, which I submit to your consideration whether you will think it proper to be laid before the Lords Justices, who meet on Tuesday next. My reasons are, that this letter seems to make some doubt whether the definitive treaty should have been laid before the Lords Justices, and takes it for granted that the *secret article* was not to be laid before them. As both these things have been done, and, in my humble opinion, could not possibly be avoided, I should think it better not to let the Lords

Justices see that any doubt has been made of re-
posing this confidence in them. The only ma-
terial part of the letter, besides this, is what relates
to the approbation of my Lord Harrington's plan
for the reductions in Ireland, and directing the
Regency to sign the proper instruments for it;
but, as that has been already done exactly in the
manner proposed, I apprehend no necessity will
arise from thence for laying this letter before the
Lords, especially as the next public letter will
certainly bring an approbation of what has been
done. 1748.

I am very sorry to hear that your Grace has had
a bad night, and heartily wish you a speedy de-
liverance from your pain and indisposition; being
always, with the utmost respect and truth, my dear
Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient, faithful,
and most humble servant,
HARDWICKE.

When your Grace has done with the copy of the
treaty, between old Leopold and Louis XIV., you
will be so good as to order it to be returned.

1748.

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

(Separate and private.)

Head-quarters at Eyndhoven, November 12. 1748.

My Lord Duke of Bedford,

I this day received your private letter of the 28th past, by which I perceive that the scheme you formerly mentioned to me, for engaging a number of men of Lord Loudon's regiment to go over to Nova Scotia upon proper encouragement, will be laid aside till my return to England, and that that regiment can land there. Therefore I shall take no further step in that affair, unless opinions should alter at home.

No one need ever make apologies to another, when their kindness prompts them to forewarn them of any difficulties or trouble they may incur, which is your case with regard to the advice you give me concerning the proposed reduction of General Bragge's regiment. My reason for proposing the reduction of that regiment was to oblige the old corps to be more careful for the future, and not to trust entirely to their seniority, but to their merit. The negligence and disorder of this regiment have been most remarkable during this war; but as I perceive it is your opinion, and that it gives so much concern to the Duke of Dorset, I should be extremely glad of your assistance towards redressing it. I see but one method left to do it, I mean by

obtaining Lord Harrington's consent that that regiment might go supernumerary to Ireland, which might be effected by reducing the 26 battalions, now proposed to be in Ireland, one man per company, which reduction would admit the 27 battalions, under the 12,000, for the Irish establishment. 1748

I shall write, by this night's post, to Lord Harrington to propose this expedient to him, though it gives me great concern to attempt to lay a fresh load on him, as he has assisted me so much already, by taking such a number of corps on that establishment.

If he should approve this scheme, I beg you will send me a messenger with the notice of it, that I may embark Bragge's regiment with the other five for Ireland, as there will be full room for them in these transports.

I think I may venture to save a regiment, till I can know his Majesty's pleasure, though I should not care to reduce one instead of another without it.

I am your very affectionate friend,

WILLIAM.

P. S. You'll be so good as to excuse my not using my own hand.

1748.

MR. LEGGE TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Berlin, November 20. 1748. N. S.

My dear Lord,

I take the opportunity of Lyttleton's return from hence to prevent my correspondence with your Grace from degenerating entirely into a public one, as I shall always value an intimacy with the Duke of Bedford much more than any intercourse with the Secretary of State. I reserve so much for discourse, that I will touch the state of my public transactions but very slightly by letter. All I can say of them is, that, from a conviction how much it would tend to the interest of Great Britain, and to the preservation of peace, to have even the formal appearance of a good understanding between the two courts, I have tried all methods I could devise to bring us a little nearer together. Hitherto I cannot brag of much success. Many unlucky circumstances, and above all things, French intrigues and French money, have kept us at a greater distance than we ought to be, or perhaps should be, if tempers and interests took their natural turn. That cursed affair of the ships has given more handle to the agents of France than any other, and, notwithstanding the laudable pains your Grace has taken to bring it to a good issue, will, I am afraid, leave behind it the seeds of lasting enmity. I hear they cry out loudly against the decision of the Court of Admiralty upon the *Petit David*: the King says the

Court of Admiralty has done too much and not enough. 1748.

Either the ship was good prize, or she was not. If she was, why did they not confiscate her? if she was not, why give costs of suit against persons found to be innocent, and already sufficiently injured by so long a detention, and the damages sustained in their cargo, only to punish them for not being guilty of what was laid to their charge? For as to any retrospect of the former voyages made by this ship, and punishing her for goods she had not on board when taken, his Majesty supposes, if the accusation were proved, no court of justice whatsoever could take cognisance of it. From these premises, one of these two things is inferred; either that the Court of Admiralty have such a fellow-feeling and tenderness for their customers, the privateers, that where they cannot give them other people's goods, at least they will bear them harmless for having taken them, and that this is a prelude to the decisions to be given upon all the other causes depending. Or, that it is a national measure in Great Britain to torment and vex the King of Prussia's merchants as much as possible, in order to discourage them from engaging in commerce. I have combated these points as much as possible, and dare say, when I shall have received an account of the grounds and motives upon which the Admiralty Court has acted, I shall have good materials to do it with. In the mean while, I must confess I am sometimes driven to the wall, and at a loss

1748. for an answer. For you must know we argue keenly
 here when we have the least appearance of reason
 on our side. So much for politics. I flatter myself
 greatly that I shall be at home time enough to re-
 sume my functions of Caliban at Woburn. Not
 that I will fetch one stick by the title of plain Cali-
 ban, or even of Mr. Caliban; I give notice that I
 shall insist upon being qualified with Count Caliban
 of the empire.

Quocunque nomine, I am, my dear Lord,

Your most obliged and affectionate

humble servant,

H. LEGGE.

LORD SANDWICH TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Helvoetsluys, December 1. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I was in hopes I should have had the plea-
 sure of paying my respects to your Grace at the
 time of the King's arrival, but the Duke of New-
 castle seems not to approve of my coming over till
 the yacht can be sent back for me; and though I
 am aware that it is very material for me to be pre-
 sent at the meeting of the parliament, or even
 sooner, if possible, I don't care to press him too
 far on this point just at this time, since I know
 that he is but too apt to form suspicions when there
 is no appearance of a foundation; and he might,

perhaps, think that there was something particular in my being so excessively solicitous to hasten to England. However, I shall not give it up; and if I can get him to change his mind without offending him, I will make use of my Lord Anson's offer, and take my passage on board his yacht.* 1748.

I cannot easily express my obligation to your Grace for your continual goodness to me, which I find from my friend Leveson has suffered no diminution; and I can safely say that it makes the impression upon me that it ought, and will ever meet with the due return of gratitude: for I have now, I think, seen enough to know who are my true friends, and from whence I may depend upon meeting with support and protection; and I own I am almost ashamed to acknowledge that it is not from the quarter from whence my own conduct has given me the best title to expect it. I shall say nothing more at present upon this subject, because I hope soon to have the advantage of making my acknowledgments to you in person; and, indeed, as I have already said, my heart is so full of your kindness to me that I have not expression to describe it.

* "His Lordship intends to offer to return to the Hague, but the King has no thoughts of that. I shall see whether Sir Thomas Robinson, staying at the Hague for a month or six weeks only, will be most likely to do good or hurt there. I will not make comparison of men: the one,

after two years' service, returns to one of the first offices in the kingdom, and as he has always said, the most to his taste; the other, after twenty-five long laborious years, returns to nothing, with a wife and seven children." — *Duke of Newcastle to Mr. Pelham.*

1748. I had an audience yesterday morning of his Majesty, and I think I was very well received, at least I was very well satisfied with my reception, as I did not expect a tolerable one after the impressions that I know have been made at Hanover to my disadvantage. As to the Duke of Newcastle, we have not had a single word about any of our differences of opinion, and outwardly every thing has gone on between us very properly and well; so that I am in hopes that, with coolness on my side and the protection of my friends at home, all will end as it ought to do. I have spoken to the Duke of Newcastle, and shall write to Mr. Pelham about my money affairs, in which, I flatter myself, I shall have your Grace's assistance. You know that my expense has been very great at Aix, and that I have never made any bills for extraordinary expenses, except those in the common allowance with my appointments; and as I have made a great number of journeys backwards and forwards on the public business, have kept a house at the Hague, and another at Aix, at an excessive rent, and have, besides, lived tolerably well during the whole time of the congress, you may easily imagine that I have a little exceeded my income. I flatter myself that Mr. Pelham will not be averse to the indemnifying me, by suffering my appointments to run on some time longer, or by allowing me to bring in a bill of extra charges; for as I don't desire to gain any thing in the service, or even to save the income of my own fortune, I am convinced

he does not mean that I should suffer by it; and 1748.
 as I am persuaded that your Grace is of the same
 opinion, I am in hopes that if the affair is ever
 mentioned, your Grace will put in a word in my
 favour.

May I trouble your Grace with my compliments
 to the Duchess of Bedford; and, if it is not improper,
 to my Lady Ancram*, for whom I have a most par-
 ticular regard. I imagine she is often at Bedford
 House, or else I should not take the liberty of
 giving you that trouble.

I beg your Grace would ever be assured that I
 am and shall be, to the last hour of my life, with
 the truest sentiments of gratitude and affection,

SANDWICH.

M. PUYZIEULX TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

A Versailles, le prem. Decembre, 1748.

Monsieur,

La paix vient donc enfin d'être signée. Cet
 ouvrage fait honneur à l'humanité, et aux deux
 grandes puissances qui en ont été les auteurs. Je
 sais que votre Excellence a été la première à nous
 rendre dans tout le cours de la négociation à l'Aix-
 la-Chapelle, la justice qui était due à la pureté de
 nos intentions. Le Roi mon maître ne l'a pas

* Louisa Caroline, only daughter of the Earl of Holderness, wife of William Henry, fourth Marquess of Lothian.

1748. ignoré, et en a été touché. J'espère que ce début, Monsieur, sera le préliminaire d'une union plus intime entre nos cours, et que votre Excellence en deviendra l'instrument. Je serai toujours très-flatté de traiter avec une personne de votre naissance et de votre rang, et très-empressé à saisir les occasions de vous convaincre de la considération et des sentimens distingués avec lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, Monsieur, &c.

PUYZIEULX.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO MR. KEENE.

Whitehall, December 8. 1748.

Sir,

As I make no doubt of your being arrived at Madrid, in pursuance of the directions I signified to you by his Majesty's special command, in my despatch of——, long before this can reach you, I make no difficulty of sending this directly to Madrid by the way of France, which I look upon to be the surest and most expeditious way of informing you of his Majesty's pleasure with regard to some particulars, about which you have, as yet, received no particular instructions. You must doubtless, sir, have observed that in the definitive treaty now concluded at Aix-la-Chapelle (a copy of which I enclosed to you) that the treaty of Madrid, of the $\frac{3}{14}$ December, 1715, commonly

called Mr. Doddington's Treaty, is not specifically mentioned to be renewed and confirmed in the treaties enumerated in the 3d article of the present definitive Treaty; though virtually, I think, it is by the renewal of that of the Quadruple Alliance of 1718, in which the words in the 2d article relating to the renewal of the treaties of Utrecht and Baden so clearly refer to that of 1715, that it is hardly possible to pervert the meaning to any other sense. 1748.

However, lest any pretences should be made by the Spanish ministry that the treaty of 1715, as it is not specifically mentioned in the present definitive treaty to be renewed, is thereby to be considered as totally at an end, and of no force, his Majesty, who has always the interest of his trading subjects at heart, and is ever watchful to prevent any thing that may in any shape be prejudicial to them, has directed me to send you the following instructions for the regulating your conduct, in case you should find, either by complaints from the British merchants of their goods not being suffered to be imported into, or exported from, the ports of Spain, under the same conditions as were practised before the late war, or by the language the Spanish ministers may talk to you in relation to this treaty of 1715, and by their positively denying the existence of it, that it will be necessary for the security of our commerce, that that court should explain itself in relation to that particular: in this case, it is his Majesty's directions that you should show the

1748. greatest surprise at this idea of the Spanish ministry's having a design to impair the privileges of the British nation, grounded on the omission of this treaty in the enumeration of those renewed in the present, and you should strongly insist that the Quadruple Alliance of 1718, which is now renewed, doth virtually comprehend, and has an eye to the annulling the explanatory articles of the treaty of Utrecht.

BEDFORD.

MR. FIELDING * TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

Bow Street, December 13. 1748.

My Lord,

Such is my dependence on the goodness of your Grace, that before my gout will permit me to

* Henry Fielding, the well-known author. In the dedication of *Tom Jones* to Mr. George Lyttelton, Fielding says, "If there be in this work, as some have been pleased to say, a stronger picture of a truly benevolent mind than is to be found in any other, who that knows you, and a particular acquaintance of yours, will doubt whence that benevolence hath been copied? The world will not, I believe, make me the compliment of thinking I took it from myself: I care not: this they shall own, that the two persons from whom I have taken it, that is to say, two of the best and worthiest men in the world, are strongly and zealously my friends. I might be contented with this, and yet my vanity will add a third to the number, and him one of the greatest and noblest, not only in his rank, but in every public and private virtue. But here, whilst my gratitude for the princely benefactions of the Duke of Bedford burst from my heart, you must forgive my reminding you that it was you who first recommended me to the notice of my benefactor."

pay my duty to you personally, and to acknowledge your last kind favour to me, I have the presumption to solicit your Grace again. The business of a justice of peace for Westminster is very inconsiderable without the addition of that for the county of Middlesex, and without this addition I cannot completely serve the government in that office; but this unfortunately requires a qualification which I want. Now there is a house belonging to your Grace, which stands in Bedford Street, of 70*l.* a year value. This hath been long untenanted, and will, I am informed, require about 300*l.* to put in repair. If your Grace would have the goodness to let me have a lease of this house, with some other tenement worth 30*l.* a year, for twenty-one years, it would be a complete qualification. I will give the full worth for this lease, according to the valuation which any person your Grace shall be pleased to appoint sets on it. The only favour I beg of your Grace is, that I be permitted to pay the money in two years, at four equal half-yearly payments. As I shall repair the house as soon as possible, it will be in reality an improvement of that small part of your Grace's estate, and will be certain to make my fortune.

Mr. Butcher* will acquaint your Grace more fully than perhaps I have been able to do; and if your Grace thinks proper to refer it to him, I and mine shall be eternally bound to pray for your

* The Duke of Bedford's agent.

1748. Grace, though I sincerely hope you will not lose a
 ——— farthing by doing so vast a service to,

My Lord, your Grace's, &c.

H. FIELDING.

THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE EARL OF SUSSEX*
 AND LORD CATHCART.†

Whitehall, December 15. 1748.

My Lords,

I am now able to fulfil the promise I made to your Lordships in my letter of this day seven-night, by Jackson the messenger, to re-despatch the Earl of Sussex his servant with his Majesty's orders to your Lordships in answer to your joint letter to the Duke of Newcastle of the ^{30th Nov.} _{11th Dec.}

His Majesty having taken the above-mentioned letter of your Lordships into his most serious consideration, has given me his orders to explain to your Lordships in what light he considers your mission into France, and in what manner he would have you regulate your conduct whilst you continue to reside there. His Majesty designing very shortly to send an ambassador to the court of his most Christian Majesty, who must necessarily be obliged, in order to keep up the dignity of his sovereign

* George, eldest son of Yel- the earldom of Sussex became
 erton, Baron Grey of Ruthyn, extinct in 1799.

created Earl of Sussex in 1717: † Charles, 9th Baron Cathcart.

and the honour of the nation, to make a very great expense at Paris, does not think proper to be at any farther unnecessary expense, in which light his Majesty is pleased to consider the request of your Lordships to be allowed a service of plate for your table. His Majesty is pleased to consider your Lordships as two persons of quality residing in France upon his service, but without any commission or public character from him. His Majesty will consequently take care that your Lordships shall constantly be supplied with sufficient credit to enable you to support with dignity the honour of the King your sovereign, and what is due to your birth and quality; but as his Majesty does not think your keeping a regular table at Paris at all necessary for either of these purposes, and as it must necessarily be attended with much expense to him and trouble to yourselves, he has been pleased to direct me to signify, as I have now done, his pleasure to you on that subject.

Your Lordships having likewise mentioned that the 1000*l.* for which a credit was settled for each of you was barely sufficient for your equipages and first expenses, and that you are now without credit, I am commanded by his Majesty to acquaint your Lordships that directions are given for a farther credit to you of 1000*l.* apiece; but at the same time I have the King's special command to recommend in the strongest manner to your Lordships as much economy and frugality with regard to your future expenses as may be consistent with the necessary

1748. figure persons of your rank and quality, without a public character, are obliged to make at Paris and Versailles.

His Majesty having taken into consideration the paper put into your hands by M. de Puyzieulx, and desired by him to be transmitted hither by your Lordships, has ordered me to inform you of the directions he has now given for orders to be sent under his own sign-manual for the several restitutions of conquests that are to be made in both the Indies. I herewith transmit to your Lordships to be delivered by you to M. Puyzieulx (upon condition that he will cause immediately to be sent over hither two duplicates of the French King's orders to the East and West Indies) three duplicates of orders signed by the King himself to Rear-Admiral Boscawen, and two to Governor Hopson at Louisbourg, and one general one to all his Majesty's governors and commanders in chief in America. The design of adding this last is only in conformity to that already sent over hither by the French court, though we have not the least suspicion here that any conquests have of late been made on either side.

Your Lordships will please to observe to M. Puyzieulx, that the orders to the East Indies are addressed to Rear-Admiral Boscawen, or, in his absence, to the officer commanding in chief any part of the squadron, or to the commanding officer in any islands or places which shall have been taken possession of by his Majesty's arms; which

entirely takes off the difficulty that was started by 1748.
 M. Puyzieulx in his second query, as the number of
 duplicates now sent to your Lordships to be
 delivered to him doth that in his first.

As I have as yet received no explanation from
 your Lordships of the true meaning of M. Puy-
 zieulx's third query, relative to the prisoners, I must
 postpone to a farther time the entering into that
 subject.

I am, &c.

BEDFORD.

P. S. His Majesty having been informed that
 the Marquis de Mirepoix has lately been made a
 duke, and that he is designed by the French King
 to be sent as ambassador to his Majesty, I am to
 inform your Lordships that the King designs, as
 soon as that shall be authentically known, to send
 over the Duke of Richmond ambassador to the
 most Christian King.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE DUKE OF
 BEDFORD.

Newcastle House, December 31. 1748.

My dear Lord,

I am extremely sorry to interrupt your
 Grace in your country business with so many
 voluminous letters from hence; but as you will

Q Q

1748. find they are most of them very material, I would not any longer delay sending them to you. The appearances on the part of France are, I think, at present bad: they seem to be aiming at delay, by their not consenting to the act signed by their own minister Du Theil, which provided for every thing they could wish. If they are sincere, except the single point of the Abbé de St. Hubert, which, however, St. Severin takes no notice of in his last letter to my Lord Sandwich, I hope you will approve the orders we have given. Nothing stronger can be said than what I wrote to Keith, though in this instance the court of Vienna, or at least their minister, does not seem at all to blame. This behaviour in the court of France makes Colonel Yorke's going thither absolutely necessary, and therefore I wish your Grace would come to town as soon as you conveniently can, in order to despatch him.

There is also another affair of importance that requires immediate consideration: the University of Oxford are come with their address.* It is so

* The following is a copy of a letter to Mr. Sharpe, solicitor to the Treasury, on this subject:—

“On the 28th an address passed the convocation. It is in a precatory style, much like a collect, and amongst other things wishes his Majesty a happy new year, and promises to check the *irregular*¹ sallies of the youth of the University. But harmless as this

address really is, it was strongly opposed. One Wilmot, a fellow of Baliol College, made a very hot, virulent speech against it. The substance of the speech was, that there was no confirmation of the peace of Europe abroad, nor peace restored to the university at home. There was a scrutiny demanded; some voted, and some did not. Many were on each side; but

¹ *Irregular* is the strongest word the Vice Chancellor has thought proper to make use of, either in his letter or memorial.

indecent and improper that, in my humble opinion, 1748.
 it ought to be considered, first, whether the King
 should receive it, then, if received, what answer
 should be given to it. It will be necessary to con-
 sider this with the bishops, and that cannot well be
 put off longer than Monday evening.

I am very sorry to bring your Grace up sooner
 than you intended; but if you could, without incon-
 venience to yourself, be here on Monday evening,
 we might determine this affair about the Oxford
 address, and, at least, fix a meeting about Mr.
 Yorke's instructions, &c. He resigns himself en-
 tirely to the King's pleasure to go when the King
 pleases to direct. I most heartily wish your Grace
 many happy new years, &c. I beg my compliments
 to my Lady Duchess,

And am, my dear Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient,

humble servant,

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

the majority of those who voted
 were for an address. If those who
 plainly declared their inclination,
 by going out of the convocation
 house without voting, had actually
 given their votes with their brethren

against the address, it would have
 been conveyed in the negative.
 There will only come up three
 coaches, which were to set out as
 yesterday or this morning."

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